

THE SOCRATES BOOKLETS. IV

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GUY MIEGE

A JOURNEY TO RUSSIA IN 1663

First Published, 1669

Edited by

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“ *Socrates* Without any one teaching
him he will recover his knowledge for himself,
if he is only asked questions ”

PLATO, *Meno*

Printed in Great Britain

METHOD OF THE SERIES

This series is intended primarily for boys and girls of thirteen to fifteen. The pupil should first read right through each poem, essay, play or narrative in order to get a general knowledge of the subject-matter, but he may pass over obscure allusions or other difficulties. The whole comes before the part. In order that the teacher may be satisfied that this first reading has been done, a selection of questions is given which should be answered, either aloud or in writing, without the book. These questions are headed "A"

After this comes more detailed and intensive study, but it is important that this should not degenerate into a mere cramming of the memory. The pupil should re-read the whole or parts of his text not in order to "get it up," but in order to find things out. A selection of questions is therefore given which aims at indicating some of the chief things which the pupil should find out if he is to enter into the mind of the writer. These questions, for which the pupil should be allowed the free use of his book, are headed "B"

A few of the questions headed "B" are marked with an asterisk () to indicate that they are intended for older pupils.*

The pupil who, after obtaining a general knowledge of his subject-matter, has employed himself in making intelligent inquiries into it, may then profitably go further afield. For this purpose a selection is given of questions which involve reference to other books. The usefulness of these questions depends partly on the extent to which the pupil has access to the best English classics and to standard works of reference. But the teacher will often have such access even if the pupil has not. In this section again an asterisk () indicates that certain questions are intended for older pupils, and a number has been placed after those where reference is made to one of the books in the list given on the last page of this volume. This third set of questions is headed "C"*

It is hoped that the notes at the end will be of use or interest to adult readers. They are not primarily intended for the pupil.

PREFACE TO THIS VOLUME

The contents of this volume consist of about the first third of a book published in 1669 with the title A Relation of Three Embassies From his Sacred Majestie Charles II to the Great Duke of Muscovie, The King of Sweden, and The King of Denmark Performed by the Right Hon^{ble} the Earle of Carlisle in the Years 1663 & 1664 Written by an Attendant on the Embassies, and published with his L^{ps} Approbation

This embassy was undertaken for the purpose of obtaining from the Tsar the restoration of certain trade privileges which English merchants had formerly enjoyed in Russia The present volume describes the journey as far as the arrival of the embassy at Moscow, and also gives the author's account of Russia After a fruitless stay of some months in Moscow the embassy returned viâ Riga, Sweden, Denmark, Hamburg, Cologne and Calais The ambassador, Charles Howard, Earl of Carlisle, was accompanied by the poet Andrew Marvell in the capacity of Secretary Marvell, who was now member of Parliament for Hull, was a good scholar who had already served for two years (1657-1659) as Latin Secretary (i.e. Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs) Guy Miège, or Miede, who wrote this account of the journey, accompanied the embassy as an under-secretary An account of him will be found in the Dictionary of National Biography

The chapter headings in the present edition are (except the first) from the original, but the numbering is the editor's A few cuts have been made in the text

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A JOURNEY TO RUSSIA IN 1663

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTORY

THE most Serene and, most Mighty Prince CHARLES the SECOND, King of Great *Britain*, &c being happily restored to His Dominions, which the malice and iniquity of this age had deprived him of, *His Alliance* (which had been interrupted during his misfortunes) *was by the rest of the Christian Princes immediately re-desired* To which end their several Ambassadors were dispatched with extraordinary Pomp and Splendour, sutable to the Dignity and Grandeur of Him it had pleased God to restore But amongst all the Princes of *Europe*, that, by their congratulations of his Re-establishment, seemed ardently to aspire at His Alliance, the *Tzar of Moscovy* had the most equitable pretentions For, besides that admirable Sympathy which has been so long time betwixt the Kings of *England* and the great Dukes of *Moscovy*, *Alexey Micharlovitz* the present Duke had so great an abhorrency of the murther of King CHARLES the First, that he resolved in some measure to revenge it upon the *English Company* at *Archangel*, whom he looked upon as assertors if not associates in the Rebellion And as a certain instance of the constancy of his affection, he no sooner understood the calamities Our present King was reduced to, but he assisted him immediately with a considerable sum of money From hence it was that his Majesty gave his Ambassadors so great a Reception, as made the Friendship he had for that great Monarch conspicuous to all the World

And it was this Embassy from the *Tzar*, and those from the Kings of *Sweden* and *Denmark*, that gave occasion to his Majesty of Great *Britain* to return these, which are the present matter of this Relation. The first Embassy was addressed to the Great Duke of *Moscovy*, The second to the King of *Sweden*, The third to the King of *Denmark*. It is true, the first had, beside *That*, a peculiar subject of Importance, touching Commerce at *Archangel* in *Moscove*, viz *To obtain a re-establishment of the Priviledges of the English Company, which consisted in this, That the Merchants of this Kingdom did formerly trade into that place without paying any Impost*. Which Immunity was but a generous recompence, that one of the former Dukes, *Ivan Basilovitz*, made the *English* for their discovery of that Port, and introduction of so considerable a Commerce thither.

The present Great Duke had vacated these Priviledges in the time of the late Rebellion in *England*, because conceiving the Merchants complices in that rebellion, he esteemed them unworthy of his favour, & therefore of enjoying any longer these Immunities. The Company having since that time, to the happy Return of his Majesty, been deprived of their Priviledges, the King by this Embassy desired things might be restored to their former state, and that upon two principal considerations. One, *because his Subjects (for whose rebellion they were taken away,) were returned again to their obedience*, The other, *because these very Priviledges were the basis and foundation, upon which the Amity betwixt the two Crowns of England and Moscovy were superstructed*. And these were two fundamental Reasons, that were strong enough to induce his Majesty to hope for success in his Demand, but he could expect no less from the generosity and promise of the *Tzar*. Yet He was flatly refused, as if the *Tzars* kindness had been already quite exhausted.

The Earle of *Carlisle*, to whom the King encharged these Embassies, was without contradiction in all respects proper

for the employment For, besides that he was of a comely and advantageous stature, a Majestick mine, and not above four and thirty years of age, he had a peculiar grace and vivacity in his discourse, and in his actions a great promptitude and diligence In a word, he was adorned with all perfections that could render a man acceptable, and especially with those that were requisite for the discharge of so important an affair

His Train consisted of near fourscore persons, amongst which he had ten Gentlemen, six Pages, two Trumpets, and twelve Footmen He had also a Chaplain, several Interpreters, a Chirurgion, six Musicians, besides many Tradesmen that were very necessary in *Moscovy* And forasmuch as his Excellency was to begin that way the circle of his Embassies, (to the end he might come back by *Læfland*¹ into *Sweden*, by *Sweden* into *Denmark*, and from thence come into *England*) before his departure he provided himself of all such necessary things as *Russia* could scarce afford So that, besides the *Liveries* which were made at *London*, he was also forced to provide himself of Beds & Chairs, and even of all Kitchin-moveables, only the Chimney excepted, and that would have been too most serviceable in several places Besides these, his Majesty provided his Excellency with a magnificent Canopy of red Damask, surrounded with a gold and silver Fringe, and having on the back in a large circle the Arms of the King of *England*, richly embroidered with silver, together with a very rich Chair of State having its Footstool For other things it is the custome of the *Tzar* to defray the charges of all foreign Ambassadors from their Entrance into his Dominions, till the time they are out of them

In short, all things being thus provided, we prepared to depart in the month of *July* 1663, but before we come to the particular relation of our Voyage, it will not be incongruous to give some general notions of its extent

¹ Livonia

The whole Voiage contained at least eighteen hundred leagues, that is to say, upon the Northern Seas betwixt *London* and *Archangel*, seven hundred and fifty from *Archangel* to *Vologda* by water up the Rivers *Dunna* and *Sucagna* in *Moscovy*, two hundred and fifty leagues, after that an hundred leagues at least from *Vologda* to *Mosco*, by Land So that the way the Ambassador went, his Voiage from *London* to *Mosco* (which is the Metropolitan in *Moscovy*) made up eleven hundred leagues From *Mosco* to *Riga* the principal City in *Livonia*, we travelled two hundred and fifty leagues, the most part by Land, which said Town is under the Dominion of the King of *Sweden* From *Riga* we passed an hundred leagues upon the *Baltick* Sea to *Stockholm*, the capital City in *Swedeland* From *Stockholm* by Sea also an hundred leagues more to *Copenhagen* in *Denmark*, where his Excellence concluded his Embassies And from thence returning to *London*, he made a Tour at the least of two hundred and fifty leagues more

CHAPTER II

OF OUR VOIAGE FROM LONDON TO ARCHANGEL

THERE were two Vessels appointed for this Voiage. One, a Man of war of 50 pieces of Ordnance, The other a Merchants ship, which last set sayle before the other with twenty two of his Lordships Domesticks, of which number I was one A great part of his baggage, and of the Presents his Majesty sent to the great Duke, were disposed in this Vessel also, besides eight Coach horses In this manner we embarked from *London* for *Gravesend*, where our ship lay at anchor in the *Thames*, with the Man of war, in which the Ambassador was to come after us very shortly

But after we were embarked, there was an unlucky accident befel one of our Company, who fell down upon the hatches, and hurt himself in several places of his body,

so that we thought fit to get him carried immediately ashore into *Gravesend*, where he found himself so ill, that we concluded his journey would be at an end before it was well begun. This person was of the number of them to whom the generosity of the Ambassador had given leave to transport themselves for *Moscovie*, and to cross those Countries with his Train. His Excellence being arrived at *Gravesend* in order to his embarkment, received him into his Vessel, where in a short time he recovered so well, that he made a match with one of the Maid-servants, and so gave us afterwards the entertainment of a Marriage at *Mosco*. However this fall proved to be but a happy fall, forasmuch as by that means he leapt out of a Merchants ship into one of the King's Men of war well provided, and much happier in this Voyage than ours. There they were entertained all the way with the sound of Trumpets, and the melody of Musick, whilst we (Strangers to all these divertisements) had no other harmony than what is ordinarily concomitant with the sickness of the Sea, in which the most of us bore our parts.

On the 15th of *July* we set sayle from *Gravesend*, with a favourable gale to fall down the River. But shortly after the wind turned so cross and violent, that for the space of seven or eight days we were all in a very sad and dismal consternation, and those chiefly who were but strangers to these confusions as yet. It is true we had now and then a little calm weather, and chiefly the 21 which gave us the opportunity of entertaining our selves with the sight of a Porpoise of an exceeding bigness, for a full quarter of an hour. She gave us great diversion with her constant plungings and leapings in the water, on each side of our Ship, as if she had come on purpose to make us that Recreation. But, as if all that had been but so many presages of a grievous Storm, and a Prognostication of crosses impending us, presently after the wind was at North-East, which was directly contrary and continued

there four days with a very great violence And so that Sea, which in the calm appeared like an azure field, wherein the fishes sported themselves with the wanton expressions of their joy, on a sudden became a place of horror, of mountains, and abysses, combating one another by the violence of the winds, the foaming waves tossing up our Vessel to the clouds, and in an instant re-plunging it in the bottom of the Sea, and the Ocean after so pleasant a calm bellowing and roaring with incredible fury so long a time together

At last we came in sight of *Norway*, and here we solicited the Master to go to an harbour which was in sight of us, and stay there till the wind served But he refused it, alledging in his excuse, that he came out very late from *England* to make so long a Voiage, that it was unseasonable to divert our selves with recreations ashore, that he was obliged to keep himself at Sea as much as was possible, so that he might be ready to make his advantage of the first favourable wind By all which we quickly discerned that we had not to do with an *Acessæus*, who was alwaies coyning of pretences to delay his voiage, and quarrelling the Moon that she was no more propitious to his Navigation Our Master on the contrary would anticipate his opportunities, and resolved however to manage his Vessel in spite of the inclemency of the Heavens He was an old Sea-man, so accustomed to the air of the Sea, that he scarce subsisted but on Shipboard, and never lived but by compulsion on shore Which made one say, That he feared lest the Master being become by custom an *Amphibium* already, should at last degenerate into some Sea-monster, and that if he had lived in the time of the antient Pagans, when the Gods transformed Men and Women into Stones, Trees, and Birds, it would have been no hard matter to have Metamorphused him at least into a Man-fish, his disposition contributing so much thereunto

The 26 the wind increased with such fury, that it blew down and brake in pieces the scuttle of our main Mast,

tore our main Sayle, and sprung one of our masts, so that it hung loose among the Tackling At first this disaster was very dreadful, but we turned it presently into an occasion of joy intermingling with the common apprehension of extraordinary danger, a secret hope of being for some time delivered from the importunity of the Sea And indeed the Master himself whose great refractoriness had carried us into so many extremities, disposed himself at last to strike sayl to the tempest, and turning to the West, we stood in for *Newcastle*, to repair our Ship which the storm had reduced to a very ill condition Upon which nothing was to be seen amongst us but transportation and joy, every body blessing God for the consolation we had drawn out of this accident, and in a moment forgetting our sorrows that were past, we pleased our selves as much that we were making for *Newcastle*, though it was sixty leagues backward, as if we had been arriving at *Archangel*, and ready to put an end to a terrible and a tedious Voyage But,

About noon the next day the wind having done its worst, left us as it were standing still, in a calm, after we had discovered the mountains of *Cheviot* in *Scotland* At length about the Evening we had a South-West wind, which served only to inveigle us further into the fury of the same wind that had so perplexed us already, and expose us afresh to the same dangers we had almost overcome For though it was but a little gale, yet the Master and Pilot puffed up with insignificant hope, thought it best to make advantage of so rare an occasion, perswading themselves by the opinion of their Carpenters, that their scuttle and mast might be mended well enough at Sea, to hold out to *Archangel* Insomuch as they peremptorily resolved, to turn their backs upon *Newcastle*, and address themselves once more to their Voyage to *Moscovy* So that having made near sixty leagues in less than four and twenty houres, and being come within six or seven leagues of the

shore, here we saw by a sad disappointment the end of our joy, and the fruit of our expectations And

The next morning the wind turned North-East again, with its old impetuosity and rage, as if it had retreated only to redouble its force The Master, far from looking out any refuge, imployed his Carpenters all this while about his scuttle and mast Whereupon, being all very impatient of our condition, and finding our selves slaves to the brutality of an insupportable person, that delighted himself as it were, to make us a sport to the winds, exposing altogether to the mercy of the storms in a shattered bruised Vessel our lives, His Majesties and his Ambassadors goods, two of his Excellencies Gentlemen amongst the rest of our Company expostulated with him boldly, and protested his rude proceeding should not go unpunished But all this would not move him, Rigour having no better an effect upon him than good Nature This son of the Sea forbore not still for some time to exercise our patience by the enraged Ocean, that seemed to threaten the very Heavens themselves At last, on the 29 the weather befriended us with as favourable an accident as befel us before, for the Bolt-sprit being loose, the Master made presently what sayle he could for *Newcastle*, which was then some fifty leagues from us But the wind constrained us twenty leagues further, and we were glad the next day to put into *Burlington*, a Harbour in the County of *York* There we were no sooner come to an anchor, but we went immediately on shore to refresh and take some necessary repose after so great incommodities at Sea

In the mean time, while we staid in this Harbour till our Ship was repaired, Mr *Watson*, a Gentleman who had the direction of our Company, was commanded away by General *Monck* upon occasion of a new Mutiny of Fanaticks in *Yorkshire*, which was soon after happily suppressed, several of the Mutineers having been executed This Rebellion we heard of as soon as we came to the Harbour

and Mr *Watson*, who had a military Command in his Majesties Guards, was therefore advised by a friend of his Sir *Thomas Gower*, then High Sheriff of *Yorkshire* (whom he met with) to acquaint speedily General *Monck* with his being at *Burlington*, that in case the General should have had occasion for him in that conjuncture he might receive his commands Mr *Watson* followed this advice, and writ accordingly to the General, though indeed he was very loth to break off his Voiage, and to undergo after so many troubles the frustration of the desire he had to see particularly the Country of *Russia*, whereunto nothing had engaged him but his own curiosity At length having received no answer at the return of the Post, the wind being turned fair, and our Ship being sufficiently repaired, he prepared himself for his embarkment with us, rather than wait any longer for an answer to the prejudice of the Ambassadors affaires But just as he was putting his foot, as it were, into the boat, he received Orders from General *Monck* to return immediately to *London* about his military Office Whereupon he came aboard our Ship, and having writ an account of the business to the Ambassador he was reconveyed on shore, to the great dissatisfaction of all our Company And so, having staid nine whole days at *Burlington*,

The 8 of *August* we sailed away for *Archangel*, reduced to a lesser number by three or four persons From thence the weather was so favourable, that whereas before we had spent three weeks and three days making but four-score leagues, we finished our Voiage within a small matter in the same proportion of time

It is true we had not above eight or nine days of fair wind, but it was so propitious, that in five days (from the 11 of *August* to the 16) we made near four hundred leagues The 12 we left *Shetland* to the leeward, and the next day we had so great a storm, that one of our Yards was broken in the middle, and we compelled to slacken our sailes

However we reckoned this tempest benign, as long as it did contribute to the good expedition of our Voyage

The 20 and 21 were so foggy that we could scarce discern one another upon the Decks, whereas, when the weather was cleer, we had so little darkness, that from Sun setting to Sun rising it seemed a continual Twy-light Nevertheless, about this time we began to be very much incommoded with cold, which brought our strong-waters into very great request among us, especially after we had on the 22 discovered the Isles of *Rust* and *Gromsond* all covered over with snow

The 26 sayling South-East, we past on towards the *North-Cape*, having left several Mountainous Islands to the windward of us, and coasting for some time along *Capland*, we came in few days upon the Coast of *Lapland*

The second of September we had the divertisement to see our selves surrounded by great numbers of Fish, solacing and sporting in the calm, and though according to the judgement of our Sea-men, and the experience we had often had, it was ordinarily a presage of ill weather, yet to us it appeared that we were not capable of a more acceptable entertainment amidst the delays of a calm and here it was we discovered a great Whale, playing in the Sea some two or three leagues off us About noon we had a gentle gale that gave us a sight of the Embassadors Frigat, by which we understood his Excellence was long since arrived at *Archangel*, that he was perswaded we were cast away, and resolved, if he had no news of us before, to begin his journey for *Vologda* the 8 of *September*

As this news (which we received but by the by, as the Frigat was returning into *England*) gave us no small joy on the one side, so on the other, it was a great trouble to find our selves sixty leagues from our Port, exposed to the fury of a wind that was already rallying its forces to beat us back, and did effectually repel us, so as

The next day we were obliged to cast anchor towards the point of *Orlogones*, for the more certain evasion of the

Rocks and Sand-banks that encompass us In the mean time, five or six of our men, and as many Seamen, made a party to go on shore, and see how that country was inhabited, and expecting to meet store of wild beasts, amongst other weapons they took their fire Arms also They stayed on shore about five or six hours, but so incommoded with the coldness of the wind, that they were constrained to cut down a wooden cross, (they found newly erected near the sea side) to make a fire therewith to warm themselves the remainder of which they brought along with them aboard to do as much for us, for we had already consumed almost all our seacoals They brought us also a Bottle of fresh water, as sweet as liquorice, which they had from a Rock near the sea side, which the Master lik'd so well, he resolved the next day to fill two or three Tun with it, for that most of our water was corrupted

The 4 the wind turned, but we escapt very narrowly being wreckt For, a little after midnight, as we were weighing anchor, in the midst of the tempest and rain, we found our selves violently forced among the Rocks by the fury of the Sea, and the Tide driving us inevitably on ground, insomuch, as the Master despairing to get the ship off, with a most lamentable voice cryed out, *All is lost* His rocky heart at last melted at the sight of those Rocks that environed us, and he whom the most outrageous surges of the Sea could not terrifie, trembled then at the sight of a Rock, insomuch, as to have seen him then, one would have thought no body had been in danger but he, so strangely was he surprised with amazement and despair And now it was, every one put his affairs into order, and he being in expectation every moment of dashing in pieces, and giving us the alarm, most of us prepared our selves to swim, if we could to Land, which was not far from us For my part, I took up *Ulysses* Resolution, who being almost in the same condition, thought it best to keep in his ship, till it was broke in pieces, &

then (said he) when the Waves have destroyed my Vessel, will be the best time for me to swim, for then a man has nothing else to mind But God Almighty delivered us from this desperate extremity, so that having with much labour weighed Anchor, we cleered our selves beyond all expectation, & doubling the point of *Orlogones*, we made forty leagues that day upon the white sea, and that evening we came up as high as *Catsnose*, which we left to the lee-ward

The 5 of *Septemb* was the day whereon we arrived happily at *Archangel*, but before we got in, we ran a great hazard at the Bar of *Archangel*, where the Duina dis-imbogues it self and where we saw a *Holland* Merchant man that was newly wreckt there The reason was, the sea was so shallow, that we had not above a foot or two water to spare, so that when we entred into the River, we were brought to that extremity, that our ship ran on ground, where we were constrained to continue till evening, when the Tide came in During which time, the master with another Gentleman went on shore to *Archangel*, to give his Excellence notice of our arrivall The tide coming in, the ship that lay but lightly upon the ground, was dis-engaged in that manner, that we all arrived at *Archangel* in three hours, where we were received by our companions with all imaginable joy so that it was no easie matter to determine which side thought it self most happy, we, who were arrived, or they, that we were so

CHAPTER III

OF THE AMBASSADORS VOYAGE, AND OF HIS ENTRY INTO THE TOWN OF ARCHANGEL

IF our Voyage was full of troubles and disasters, I dare on the other side affirm, there was scarce ever any so happy as the Ambassadors For without mentioning the advantage and convenience of his ship, I shall only relate, that

whereas we spent seven compleat weeks betwixt *London* and *Archangel*, his Excellencie made the whole Voyage of seven hundred and fifty leagues, in less than a moneth for, having set saile from *Gravesend* the 22 of *July* which was eight daies after us, he arrived the 19 of *August* at the Barr of *Archangel*, which was seventeen daies before us And there it was his Frigat came first to an anchor, in expectation of Orders for his Entry, for which reason he sent Mr *Marvel* his Secretary into the Town Of whose landing, the Governour having notice, ordered him to be conducted by six Gentlemen to the Castle, through a Regiment of six hundred men, and the next day he sent sixteen boats, guarded by several hundreds of men, under the command of a Collonel, to receive his Excellence, and bring him ashore

The Ambassadors Entry into *Archangel* was made the 23 in a remarkable manner For, besides the sixteen boats which were sent to attend upon the Ambassador, there was a Barque particularly trim'd for his Excellence, besides several others drest up with Tapestry, that came to meet him, and accompany him to the Town above halfe a league, whilst several ships, men of War and Merchantmen, both of *England* and *Holland*, forbore not to congratulate his Entry with the noise of their Canon, which is not much in use amongst the *Muscovites*, unless in their wars And just as his Excellence was landing, upon a wooden bridge, he was prevented by a certain Collonel, called *Bogdan*, who came to complement him, according to their mode, and to declare himself deputed to attend him as *Pristaffe* (which is the title they give such as are appointed to receive foreign Ambassadors, and to take care of their passage and provisions) The Ambassador having replied to him very handsomely, began to advance towards the lodging which was prepared for him but as he was setting the first step, the *Pristaff* took the upper hand of him And this was an instance of the great rude-

ness and insolence of the *Muscovites* (of which we shall have future occasion to speak more largely) which is the ordinary method they use to those Ambassadors, upon whom they design any advantage so as they beleieve, they do their Prince a manifest injurie, if they do not in his name treat them uncivilly But his Excellence being resolved to teach them the dignity of his Character, stopt himself immediately, and turning to the *Prinstaff*, remonstrated to him the incivility of his carriage, telling him in these words, That he had received great civilities till then, but that he could by no means give him that advantage, which was due to himself, That he was sent from his Majestie of Great *Brittain* to the Emperour, to do him all possible honour, but it was without derogating from himself, and much less from the King his Master Thereupon *Bogdan*, in some perplexitie, excused himself, by alledging the Orders he had received from the Governour to that purpose, and entreated his Excellence to make a little stay In the mean time, he dispatched away a Messenger to the Governour, to give him notice how un luckily his Design had succeeded, and continued bare-headed all the while (till the messenger returned) though his Excellence was covered At length the difference was decided, to the advantage of the Ambassador, who was immediately conducted to his Lodging, where the *Prinstaff* with great Apology, made him a liberal offer of all things necessary for his family

And this is all I have to say concerning the manner of our Entry However, before I describe the Circumstances of our abode at *Archangel*, and the success of our journey cross the Country to *Mosco*, I think it not impertinent to give a Relation of the Country it self, and the Inhabitants, to the end that the Readers, being pre-instructed in these two points, the manner of our Voyage may be more easily comprehended

QUESTIONS ON CHAPTERS I—III

A

- 1 Describe the voyage of the ship in which the author of this book sailed
- 2 What was the object of the embassy ?
- 3 Describe the ambassador's entry into Archangel

B

- 1 What were the numbers of the Earl of Carlisle's party, and what baggage did they take with them ?
- 2 Look up the Earl's route on a map and check the distances given by Miede
- 3 Give an account of Mr Watson
- 4 Look up on the map the route of the merchant ship from Gravesend to Archangel
- 5 Write a letter describing the most interesting sights seen during this voyage

C

- 1 What do you know of the earliest English voyages to Archangel ? ¹
- 2 Compare the account of the storm given here with those in *Robinson Crusoe* ²
- 3 What do you know about General Monk ?
- 4 What do you know of (a) the life, (b) the poetry, of Mr Marvell, the Secretary ³
- 5 Compare the difficulties about etiquette in Chapter III with those in Addison's essay on "Country Etiquette" ⁴
- *6 What happened at Archangel during and shortly after the Great War, 1914—1918 ?
- *7 How and where was Milton living and what was he doing at this time ? ⁵

CHAPTER IV

THE DESCRIPTION OF MOSCOVIE

§ I

Moscovie is properly but the name of a Province so called, of which *Mosco* is the chief City But as *France* communicates its name to all the Provinces under that Dominion, so by *Moscovie* are ordinarily understood all the Provinces united under the Obedience of the Czar This Country is a part of the *Europæan Sarmatia*, whereof the Antients make mention, which is otherwise called *Russia* or *Roxolania*, and from thence comes the name of *Russians*, which is given to the *Moscovites*

This Empire which is doubtless the greatest of all *Europe*, extends it self Northward to the frozen Sea, beyond the *Artique* Circle, Eastward it is terminated by the River *Oby*, Southwards by the *Crim Tartars* and *Precopia*, And on the West by *Livonia*, *Poland*, and *Swedland* So that in its whole extent, as well in *Asia* as *Europe*, it comprehends thirty degrees, which is near six hundred leagues, and in its Latitude sixteen, which is above three hundred

This Country is generally flat, in which Nature has taken delight, as it were, to put the Trees in array, and to beautifie it with several Lakes and Rivers And in truth, *Moscovie* from one end to the other, is in a manner nothing but a continual Forest, irrigated by several Lakes and Rivers, which render it incomparably pleasant and beautiful Amongst others, there is *Volga*, sometimes called *Rha*, and which the *Tartars* at present call *Edel*, without exception the finest River in *Europe* It takes its source in the Province of *Roscome*, from a Lake called *Fronow*, and passing some few leagues beyond into another called *Volgo*, it takes its name from that Lake, and dis-imbogues

near *Astracan* into the *Caspian* Sea, where it divides *Europe* and *Asia*. So as from its head, to the place where it falls into the *Caspian*, is a tract of a thousand leagues at least, receiving most of the Rivers in *Moscovie*, as it goes along, which enlarge it so, that, as *Olearius* mentions in his Relation, it is not far from *Nice*, four thousand six hundred Geometrical feet broad.

The *Boristhenes* also, which parts *Lituania* and *Moscovie*, is very considerable, which riseth in *Roscovie* also, and dischargeth it self into the *Euxin* Sea. Besides these, there is *Duina* which receiveth the *Conflans*, *Jagel*, and *Sucagna*, and casts it self into the *White* Sea, some six or seven leagues from *Archangel*. There is another *Duina* also, which riseth some leagues off of the *Nieper* or *Boristhenes*, in a Lake that gives it its name, and falls into the *Baltique* about four leagues from *Riga*. The *Oby*, which discharges it self into the *Frozen* Sea, and takes its source from the Lake *Catausco*, is so broad at the mouth, they must have a very good wind that cross it in a day. I could speak also of *Mosca* and *Occa*, considerable Rivers, and of several others this Country is well provided with, but it shall be sufficient at present to say, that for the most part they lose themselves in the Rivers above-named. Besides these, there is so great a number of Brooks, Pools, and Lakes, one can scarce pass four or five leagues without seeing some great collection of Water.

Moscovie being scituated in so cold a Climat, no wonder if the Winters be very long there, and the Frosts exceeding violent, especially in the most Northerly Provinces. About *Mosco*, where the weather is more temperate, the Winter takes not up above six or seven moneths in the year, but on the Eastern, and Northern sides of the Country, particularly in the Province of *Petzora*, that runs along by the *Frozen* Sea, their Winters are so long, that their Rivers which begin to thaw but in *May*, freez again before *August* is past. And although those Provinces towards the South

should seem in reason to be more mild, they are notwithstanding so subject to violent Cold, that one shall meet with men upon the Road benum'd ordinarily, who (though their whole body perhaps be not stupified) yet there is nothing more common, if they have not extraordinary care, than to have their Eares, their Lips, their Hands, or their Noses frozen In short, the Colds there are great to that degree, that they many times become insuperable by any exercise of the body, and cleave the very Earth as much as a Drought The Rivers, the Lakes, the Sea it self is frozen, and as at that time they seem to have changed their Natures, they change also their Customes One may see there a River so frozen in four and twenty hours, that one may pass over dry foot, and without doubt the abundance of Water that contributes to the Frost, must needs make the Aire more bitter, and the Winter more fierce

From thence it comes to pass, that *Moscovie* is exempt from Epidemical diseases, their bodies being more robust, and more vigorous than in the hot Countries, where they are more subject to distempers True it is, the Heats in the Summer are so excessive, that (as it is commonly reported in that Country) even the Fir-trees are sometimes set on fire by the Sun Nevertheless, the Nights are so fresh and coole, that in the moneth of *July*, we had Frosts, though the Days had been sweltry and insupportable But that which is much more troublesome than the Heat, is the Clouds of Insects, of Wasps, and other Flies, ingendred by the Sun in the Pooles and Marshes, which give a perpetual persecution to them that travel

For Aliment, necessary for the subsistence of Man, *Moscovie* produces so good, and in that quantity, that it yeelds not to the best country in *Europe* They have Grass and Corn in that abundance, that they know not which way to consume it, for which cause here it is the *Hollander* makes his provision of corn yearly Their Seed time is not before *May*, though about *Mosco* and the Pro-

vinces adjacent, the fields are open ordinarily in *April*, or the end of *March*. The great Frosts they have in the Winter, make them give the Earth more leisure to thaw, yet that hinders not but they have their Harvest before *August*. For the great heat of the Day, which is eighteen hours long, and the freshness of the Night, which with plentiful dews waters the Corn, thrusts it up immediately, and in a short time brings it to maturity. They have very good Beef, but their Mutton (especially about *Archangel*) is but indifferent. They have great store of Deer, Wild-bores, and Elkes, but principally of Hares, which are gray all Summer, and in Winter as white as Snow. Pheasants, Partridges, Wood-pigeons, Wood-cocks, Duck, and Mallard, Geese, Quails, and Pigeons are very plentiful, and by consequence cheap. Their Forrests are well furnished with small Birds also, as Thrushes, Larkes, and Feldifere, but having enough of others, they do not spend their time in taking of them. There are also about *Archangel* some Birds of prey white all over. And if the Forrests befriend them with such variety of Game, their Rivers, Lakes, and Pools are no less bountiful in their Fish. In the *Volga*, they have a kind of Sturgeon, of whose Eggs they make an excellent Ragout, which they call *Ikar*, and the *Italians Cavayar*, which affords a considerable Trade in those Parts, and the Czar keeps it to himself. They put their Eggs into Paste, and (having prepared them with Salt ten or twelve days) they eat them like a Sallad with Vinegar, oyl of Olives, Pepper, and Onions. They have all kind of Pulse, and Pot-herbs, yet it is not long since Sallades and Asparagas were in fashion in *Mosco*, and since Flowers and strong Herbs were transplanted thither. Onions and Garlick are so common amongst them, especially in their Lents, that one needs go no further than his Nose for information. They have great quantities of Melons, Cucumbers, and Gourds, and we were assured, that (like those which *Olearius* mentions of the figure of a Lamb)

they change their place as they grow, that they dry up the Grass which way soever they turn, and that when ripe, the stock dies, and that the fruit being covered with a certain velvet on the rinde, the same with a little preparation is made serviceable as Furrs And these kind of Gourds are frequently had near *Samara*, betwixt the *Volga* and the *Don* They have no want of Apples, Plums, or Cherries, but they have no Walnut-trees, or such Fruit as require a longer and more moderate heat They have good store of fair Straw-berries, and in *Autumn* a certain red Goos-berry, that grows flat upon the ground They have Mulberries also, and Rasberries, and Honey in that abundance, that they gather it as they pass along the Woods All which being considered together, with their vast numbers of Cattle, one may well say, That this also is a Countrey flowing with Milk and Honey Of this Honey they make a great proportion of Wax, so as beside what they consume in their Torches, Candles, and Lamps, they utter yearly near twenty thousand Quintals to Strangers Of this Honey it is they make their Mead, which they call *Mroude*, a very common drink amongst them They make it of raw Honey, beaten in warm water, which, when they have stirred up and down a long time with a stick, they cover, and let it stand twelve hours then boyling and scumming it, they strain it thorow a cloath, and it is made They have also another sort that is red, which is excellent with Straw-berries, Cherries, Mulberries, or Rasps, and is prepared with more curiositie and ingredients Besides this, the Ordinary People drink *Quaz*, which is a kind of small Beer, and not unpleasant The better Sort make themselves a kind of strong Beer, which they keep in their Snow-houses all the Summer True it is, they have no Vines, yet by the Courtesie of the *English* and *Hollander*, they are every year so well provided with Wine and strong Waters, that they have no want either of the one or the other

Stone being a Rarity in *Moscove*, and Wood so plentiful, there are few Houses but what are built of Wood, which I observed to have two conveniences One is, that they are warmer than Stone, the Other, that they are cheaper But withal, they have this disadvantage, that they are more obnoxious to the Element of Fire, which is so outrageous sometimes, that it devoures a whole Town at a blow And hence it is their Houses are very rude, without any fashion or art, being only so many pieces of Firr piled up one above another, and Moss stuff in betwixt them, their Windows very small, and their Roofs of bark of Trees, covered over sometimes with Turf So that (their Stoves excepted, which they use to warm their Chambers with, in the severity of the Winter) they do almost follow the Discipline of *Lycurgus*, who would have the *Lacedæmonians* build with no other Instruments, than the Hatchet and Saw They are generally low, and those of the Pesants, not of above one or two Rooms at the most, in which the Father, Mother, Children, Hogs, and Hens lie all together They have for the most part no Chimneys, insomuch as when they make use of their Stoves, the smoak goes out still at the Windows Another Remedy the *Muscovits* have against the mischief of fire, is the miserable furniture of their Houses, which is so contemptible, that in any such accident, they can lose nothing with their Lodgings, but their Dishes and Spoons, which are made of Earth or Wood, so that they comfort themselves in their losses, by the facility of their Reparations

For their Garments, which are very necessary for the resistance of the Winter, Nature must be acknowledged to have dealt very prudently in providing their Forests so replete with Beasts of prey, with whose Skins they protect themselves against the injuries of the Weather For, besides Furs of Otters, Martins, common Foxes, and Hares, they have some more precious, as your black Fox,

Sables, Beaver, Ermines, and gray Squirrels They have white Bears also, whose skin is of great value, and much used by great Persons to hang behind the back of their Sledges, as an Ornament, when they travel or pass thorow the Town The Skins of the common Bears are of much use to the same purpose, which beasts are there in so great numbers, that they do not only infest the High-waies in Winter and make them dangerous, but trooping together in Companies, they sometimes fall upon a whole Village, and destroy it Their Wolves are no less fierce, and sometimes they have much ado to defend themselves against them, They have white Wolves too, but not so frequent They have a water Rat, whose skin is of a pleasant Smell, and very proper to lay amongst cloaths

They have Hemp and Flax in that abundance in *Moscovie*, that notwithstanding all that is exported from *Archangel*, linnen amongst them is very cheap It is not necessary that I mention the Leather of *Russia*, being a thing so well known already in *Europe* by the means of the *English* and *Hollander*, who transport it dayly from *Archangel* Cloth is the only thing that is defective to the *Muscovits*, what they make there being course and thick, and for the use only of the *Pesants*, which gives occasion to the *English* and *Dutch* to drive a great Trade there every year with that Commodity

As for Travailing, they have great advantages (especially in the Winter) by their Sledges For the Country being flat and exceeding Cold, and the ground at that time covered constantly with Snow, their Sledges which are drawn with horses, glide easily away upon the surface of it, and pass with incredible swiftness These Sledges are made of the Bark of the Linden-tree, about the length of a man, in which one lies along They line them commorly with some thick Felt to make them warm, and because the top is open, they cover and wrap themselves up in good Furs, as well as they can They travail under the

conduct of a Carter, who sits on one side, and sometimes by fits will endeavour to warm himself with running by, but most commonly with good full draughts of strong Water, which is his principal Preservative in his Travels And if at any time he happens to overturn upon any Bank or Declivity, the Sledge being built low, the fall is the less dangerous The Ladies Sledges, that are covered above and on all sides like Coaches, are built much higher, and by consequence much heavier, and are therefore more dangerous, otherwise they slide along upon the Snow like the rest This manner of Travailing in Sledges, is not only convenient (seeing one may in three dayes time travail in them from *Vologda* to *Mosco*, which is at least an hundred leagues distance) but pleasant also in so plain a Country And (provided a man be well covered) he may sleep with ease, his motion is light and insensible, and favours rather, than disturbs ones repose besides the Advantage of Travailing by nights, as well as by days, according to the importance of occasions In Summer they have two waies of Travailing, by Land, and by water, whereas in Winter they Travail but only by Land On the first, one may travail on Horse-back, by Coach, or by Waggon, the Ways being very broad, beautiful, and generally easie for Travail all *Moscovite* thorow In the other way of Travailing, they make use of certain little Boats, made all of one piece, of the trunk of a Tree made hollow, in which they stand right up, and row over Lakes and Rivers So, these Boats being very light, a man with small care can travail a great way in a very short time But there is this dangerous inconvenience in them, if there be not an exact counterpoise observed, they totter from one side to another, till at last they turn quite over They make use also of certain floating Bridges, made of pieces of Firr joined and tyed together, which bear themselves up upon the Water Furthermore, they have this great incommodity in all sorts of Travailing, that they have no Inns or Houses of

Reception to retire to, or where one may be accommodated, as in other Countries of *Europe*, so that one must carry both his Bed and Provision along with him And for this reason the Merchants that traffique from *Archangel* to *Mosco* have their houses at *Vologda* and *Mosco*, and being well known and accommodated, it is a great convenience to travail with them Another great incommodity in the Summer is the violence of the Heat, and the importunity of the Flies, buzzing perpetually about ones Face, and interrupting the pleasure one might take in the beauty of the Forests, and the grateful confusion of Light, and Shadow that is made in the Woods

§ 2

Thus far we have represented the Condition of the Country, we will now consider the Genius of the People succinctly, and that First, In respect of their Origine, their Stature, their Habits, and Language, Secondly, Of their Humour, and Nature, and Disposition, Thirdly, Of their Managery, and manner of Living, Fourthly, Of their Policy, and Last of all, Of their Religion

The *Moscovits*, or *Russians*, are those whom the Antients called *Rhoxalani*, they boast themselves descended from the *Greeks*, whom in many things they zealously imitate But this I dare undertake, they are not descended from *Lacedæmonians*, If they be, they have left all their Vertue behind them I should rather deduce them from those, who were called *Sibarites*, who had the Reputation of good Drinkers above all others

Their Shape and Proportion is much the same with the *Germans*, being for the most part Corpulent, and of a strong Complexion The *Boyars* (for so their principal Nobility are termed) are very ambitious to have their bellies stick out, as if they esteemed it a mark of their Nobility Great Beards (as in *Germany*) are in great request here also, and

lookt upon as tokens of Virility, and he that hath the greater Beard, is the bravest man amongst them But though they wear their Beards so long, yet they please themselves as much in the shortness of their Hair, which they cut very close, notwithstanding the Coldness of the Country Ecclesiastical persons only wear long Hair, except such Lords of the Court as are in disgrace with the *Czar*, who as a testimony of their affliction do suffer it carelessly to hang down over their Shoulders, Not unlike the antient Custome among the *Greeks*, upon any publique or extraordinary Calamity For then the Women shaved their Heads, and the Men wore their Hair at length, whereas commonly they did the contrary The Women in *Moscovie* are of a midling Stature, and well proportioned, they are for the most part handsom, and well featured, but painting is amongst them so common, they never think themselves beautiful without it And whereas other Women use it as a concealment of their deformity, these for the most part do use it (how gross or bad soever it be) as a Veil to their beauty The married Women have a Custome of putting up their Haires in a Coyfe, whereas their Virgins suffer it to hang down in two Tresses upon their Backs

As to their Habits, the Men wear long great Robes down to their Feet, not much unlike the *Greeks*, with sleeves of the same length, but very strait, in so much as when they dress themselves, they must turn them up in several plates¹ upon their Armes, and in that multitude of folds they fancy there is great comliness They have two conveniences by the length of their sleeves, one, that in the Winter time they do the office of a Muff, whilst having no employment for their hands, they let them hang down at their full length The other is, that when they have any design to rob, or take revenge upon any body, they let them hang down as for warmth, and under that pretence they carry their cudgels, stones, or daggers in them They

¹ *I e* pleats

ordinarily wear them as low as their knuckles, and so they have but one half of their hands at liberty The most considerable Persons amongst them make their robes of Sattin, Damask, or cloth of Gold The Citizens, of cloth of a dusky, violet, or dark green colour, and sometimes of red The People of the lowest Condition have theirs of a dark-coloured course Cloth, made in their own Country In Winter every one lines them with Fur, according to their several qualities, the poor People generally lining theirs with Sheep skins, which though they be very useful against the Extremity of the weather, yet in this they are inconvenient, that they cast an ill smell, and are in perpetual hostility with our Noses They wear Juste-au-corps or Vests also, which are made close to their Body, and come down to the Calf of their Legs, open before, and set to the bottom with Gold or Silver buttons, and having Collars very large Under them, they have strait Breeches, and Wast-coats (which they call *Caftan*) that come down to their knees, whose Collars are made after the fashion of the *Jesuits*, only these are much higher, so that they go round about the hinder part of their Heads They are generally made of Sattin, Damask, or Taffiaty, and because these Collars, by reason of their heighth, are very conspicuous, they line them many times with Velvet, or cloth of Gold, and sometimes adorn them with Pearls and precious Stones Nor doth this Vanity rest here, it goes even to their Shirts, which the richest sort Embroider at the Collar, Wrists, and Breast, with several coloured Silk, and sometimes with Jewels or Gold They wear no Hats, only a Bonnet of cloth, with a little snip open before and behind, which hath something of the form of a Pyramide The Nobility have them of Scarlet cloth, or Velvet embroidered with Pearl on the sides, and in Winter time lined with the preicousest Furs, but the common Sort wear nothing but white Felt or cloth Caps, which they get lined in Winter with the vilest sort of Fur Cloath

is so dear in that Country, that many amongst them make no bones of patching up their Bonnets with pieces and shreds of sundry colours, so that they resemble in some manner the disguised Water-men in the Play These Bonnets I observed to be altogether inconvenient abroad, for having no brims, they give no protection against the Sun, the Wind, the Rain, or the Snow whereas our Hats are some defence to us in all these cases The *Poloman* Bonnets are more commodious than these, for they are made with a brim of past-board, of each side covered over with Fur and hence it is, that in Winter most Strangers make use of them in *Moscove*, as being warmer than our hats In stead of Shoes, the *Russians* wear commonly Boots without stops, which serve them also for Pockets the Peasants wear shoes made of the bark of a Tree wrought very thin, and interwoven and braided, after the manner of Wicker baskets The most of them have no Stockings, only some peeces of Fur or cloth wrapt about their Legs, and tied fast with a pack-thred There is no great difference betwixt the Mens Habits and the Womens, saving that the Womens Robes are somewhat larger, and their Sleeves not so fastned to the bodies of their Robes, but that they can either put them on, or let them hang by as they please They have this onely peculiar in their smock-sleeves, that they are commonly three or four Ells long, plated into so many folds, that they have nothing else from the top of their Arm to their Fingers end But their greatest difference is in their Bonnets, which for the Women, are made a very fantastical way

Their Language hath great affinity with the *Slavoman*, as well as the *Poloman*, so that he who understands either of these, cannot be at any great loss for the *Moscovian*, which is pleasant enough, and not very difficult to learn They have borrowed their Characters from the *Greeks*, but have since much altered and transformed them, and they abound so much in double Letters, that they have

increased their Alphabet to the number of forty But their Character is that alone wherein they communicate with the *Greek*, for their Words have very little affinity to it

§ 3

And thus I have given an account of their Original, their Stature, their Habits, and their Language, we will now proceed to their Nature and Genius

The *Moscovites* (as appears particularly by their Commerce) are a People of great Wit, Cunning, and Dexterity

They are of a Temper very remarkable in this, that they are so accustomed to the Extremities of Heat and Cold, that the suddenest and most violent alteration that can be, makes no ill impression on their health There one may see little Children come running out of their warm Stoves in their shirts in the midst of Winter, and having (in the fiercest Cold imaginable) taken two or three frisks upon the Snow, return immediately into their Stoves, and find no inconvenience by the change Insomuch, that as *Agesilaus* had but one Habit Winter and Summer, so do these seem to have but one Temper, neither the Heat succeeding the Cold, nor the Cold the Heat, making any alteration in them In short, they are so hardned and accustomed to both Heat and Cold, that their Custome seems to be turned into Nature Besides, they being used to very hard fare, and brought up as they are in servitude and slavery, they must unquestionably be very proper for the Wars And indeed having little comfort or pleasure in their lives, they want rather Conduct than Courage to fight Nevertheless, Idleness which in other places is reckoned as the Root of all Vices, seems to be peculiar to this Nation, so Lazy are they naturally, and of such Antipathy to all kind of Labour It must be either force or necessity that compels them thereunto, they often preferring a bastinado or whipping before an honest but painful imployment

From hence it is, that Drunkenness amongst them is so familiar, that there are but few Persons exempt from it The Clergy are addicted to it, as well as the Laity, the Women as the Men, the Young as the Old, all striving as it were, with a brutish emulation to out-drink one another *Aquavita* is generally the charm by which this Metamorphosis is made, like the liquour of *Circe*, which turns them into Swine, or like the Mead of *Camma* which carries death along with it, when they venture so far as to dye upon the spot Yet I must say, that notwithstanding this liquour is very necessary in this Country, and that there were scarce any living without it, in regard it is a sovereign Remedy against the Cold, and not un-useful in Summer But the abuse of it is grown so great, that, instead of taking it now and then for the re-inforcement of their Spirits, they imploy it to their dissolution, and whereas by a moderate taking, it would be a means of refreshment, their debauches pervert its good effects, and turn it to their ruin Tobacco was formerly also taken with no less extravagancy than their strong Water now, but in the year 1634 the *Czar* and Patriarch thought good with great rigour to prohibit it, many of them having before that time set their Houses on fire by their negligence, when they were drunk with Tobacco The poore People instead of buying themselves bread, consumed all their Money in Tobacco. Besides (which was the particular disgust of the Patriarch) they presented themselves before their Images with so reeking and smoaky a breath, that, perhaps he was afraid, they would poison their Saints, with the stink of their Tobacco At this day it is more frequently used than in some years past, the search being not now so strict against the takers, nor the punishment so severely inflicted on them that sell it Strangers have the liberty to use it, which makes the *Moscovites* to be the more desirous of it, for some of them would almost worship a man for a pipe of Tobacco.

But Vice having (as *Plutarch* observes) many baits and allurements, by the motion and representation of which, it gives the Passions several encroachments to entangle themselves So may I say of Drunkenness, that it hath its attraction, and draws men into Lasciviousness and Excess Amongst the rest of the World, the *Moscovites* do furnish us with experiments of this kind, both the Women and the Men giving themselves over to Ebriety, there is a concomitant addiction to Wantonness

In short, Civility and Complacence amongst them is so rare, tis no wonder if they be very sparing of it before Strangers to whom if they bear any difference or respect, it is certainly from some advantage they expect to draw from them And in that case they spare not their Caps, and the greatest reverence they can show, which is commonly expressed by a low declination of their Head towards the ground without moving a Foot The Women use also the same way of saluting one another, only they bow themselves more gradually, and letting their hands hang loose by their sides, they touch not their Bonnets at all But when a Citizen or Peasant would show something more than ordinary Respect, then he goes to the very ground, and prostrates himself, even to the beating the ground with his Forehead, which is the manner of expressing the Reverence which they bear to their Nobility And this extreme submission is that which makes their Magistrates so insolent, and so exceeding jealous of their Authoritie, that Strangers let them be of what Quality they will, do very rarely meet with any Kindness or Civility amongst them And withall, having an opinion of the Grandeur of their Emperour, that he is incomparably greater than any King in *Europe*, from thence it comes to pass, that they use Ambassadors so indifferently, making no scruple to prefer themselves before them, in which regard there is great prudence and circumspection required to the maintaining the Honour of ones Prince amongst them

§ 4

And this is in general a true Character of the Humour of the *Russians*, it remains now that (according to the Order I have proposed) I give some Prospect of their manner of Living

Moscovite is indeed a very fertile and plentiful Country, yet the Inhabitants brought up from their Cradles in great Hardship and Austerity, understand not how to improve the advantages it yields And being born as it were to Slaverie, they easily endure those Incommodities, which without long accustomation would have been intolerable So that what *Agesilaus* said of the People of *Asia*, may be very well applyed to them, *viz* That they are very good Slaves, but would make the worst Free-men in the World For their Oeconomie and the affairs of their Houses, it is certain, they are very ill furnisht, that they live very poorly, and that they know no superfluity, but of Drink Those Persons of Quality that are obliged to live in any Equipage or Heighth, have all their Provisions from their own Farms The common People have little other chear than Peas, Turnops, Cabbages, Coleworts, and fresh Cucumbers, or pickled with Salt and Vinegar They have fresh Fish and Salt sometimes but then they never forget their Onyons and Garlick, which are their principal hautgout Besides these they have little other fare, especially of Flesh, most of their year being taken up by fasting days, and their Butter and Cheese is so bad, that it is a hard thing for Strangers to make use of them Those who are rich enough to have *Aquavita* of their own, will not sit down at the Table, till they have drank of it, and whilst they are at Meales they drink it, and lest their Digestion should be weak, they must needs have their Dram too afterwards The common People are alwaies prepared for it, as well drunk as sober, at midnight as at noon-day, and though their Waters are made very strong,

yet for fear they should not be hot enough, they clap in now and then a good quantity of Pepper Their Ordinary drink is *Mead* and *Quaz*, as I have intimated before After Dinner the *Russes* have a Custome of shutting up their Shops, and going to sleep, and the great Persons amongst them, will scarce speak of affaires with any Body Nevertheless they use Beds so little, that none but some Persons of quality do lye upon Beds or Quilts The People of *Capua* had antiently a Custome to suffer none of their Children to use any Beds, till they were married, because as they alledged, Beds were not invented for young beardless Boys, but for antient and decrepit Men Amongst the *Moscovites* this Custome is more severe, for they use them neither before, nor after they are married, nor in the very extremity of Age In Winter time they content themselves to lye along upon a table or a bench of Firr before their Stoves, covering themselves only with their clothes and for coolness in Summer they make bold with the Ground

Instead of Candles, the Peasants make use of long and thin chips of Firr, which being very dry presently take fire, and give a great light But because they are instantly burnt out, they must have a good store of them to supply, if they want light but for a little time

One thing there is very commendable amongst the *Moscovites*, and that is, that the Women have great respect generally for their Husbands, for which reason they are exceedingly retired, and appear very seldome in publique And this is a Custome so conformable to Nature, and so religiously observed amongst the Antients, that there is no person, but will condemn the liberty which is at this time taken by most of the Women in *Europe* *Plutarch* tells us, That a discreet Woman should deport her self directly contrary to the Moon, that is, that she should appear when her Husband is by, and in his absence keep her self close at home *Phidias* making the Image of *Venus* for the *Elans*, represented her standing upon a Tortoise, to

signifie, that a Woman should by no means be gossiping abroad It is to be commended also in the *Moscovites*, that they permit not their Wives to be seen too frequently in the Streets, though in other things their Discipline appears rigid enough, and savouring of too much severity. For they make use of them only as a necessarie evil, they look upon them superciliously, and with frownes, they beat them often, and handle them as if they were their slaves, and not part of themselves

But if the Women in general are so retired, amongst the Nobility, the Virgins are much more, for besides, that they appear very seldom abroad, when they do so they cover themselves alwaies with a Vaile, to prevent their being seen so that many times they marry before the Bride-groom hath seen his Mistresses face Amongst them it is not permitted that young Men and Maids see one another, nor that they make any promises of Marriage by Word or Writing, those things being alwaies left to the transaction of the Parents So it sometimes happens that the Bridegroom, having not seen his Wife till he be brought up into her chamber where she is laid, that the man who expected a very handsom Wife, meets with a deformed Person, and perhaps a counterfeit, if the Parents will but consent to the Cheat This Custome of Womens wearing Vailes, is very antient, especially amongst the *Jews*, who did it in token of Bashfulness and Chastity, as the *Moscovites* do now And hence it was that *Rebecca* as soon as she saw her Husband, took a Vail and covered herself, and that *Laban* deceived *Jacob*, when he gave him *Leah* his Eldest daughter, who was bleer-eyed, instead of the Beautiful *Rachel* whom he had promised him

The Demeanour of the *Moscovites* being thus described, as to their manner of Living, we shall now speak somewhat of the Baths, of which they make use in imitation of the Antients They are close places with Furnaces, which they heat exceedingly, and for the greater excitation of

Vapours, they cast Cold water now and then upon the Stove They have divers Benches, at some distance, one above another, which yield several degrees of Heat, according as each one thinks convenient They lay themselves along stark naked upon these Benches, and after they have swet a competent time by means of those hot Vapours, that have diffused themselves all over the Bath, there is care taken, that their Bodies be well washed with Warm water, or some other liquour, and rubbed all over with hand-fuls of Hearbs After which they commonly take a Dram of the bottle, to re-inforce their Spirits, which are sometimes so weakened by their sweating, that they fall into a swound And these Baths are the universal Remedies the *Moscovites* make use of, as well for keeping of their Bodies clean, as for conservation of their Health, which they enjoy with great advantage above other Nations And for this reason there is not a Town without its Stoves, both publique and private

And forasmuch as every Country hath its divertisements, as being necessary for the Exercise and Recreation of the Body, it is but reasonable to say something of those that are in use amongst the *Moscovites*

At their Festivals, their young Men are accustomed to meet in great numbers, and for their pastime to play at fisty cuffs, or cudgels, without the least quarrelling, or exceptions By which means they are so inured to blows, that they become almost insensible, and have much greater aversion to work, than they have to the whip or the cudgel, though the same be laid on in very good earnest Some also there are that understand wrestling pretty well, with which they exercise themselves in imitation of the *English*, who are taken to be very skilful in this kind of Recreation In Winter they have a sort of Pattins, or Scates, as they have in *Holland*, of which they make use, as soon as the Rivers are frozen, not to make their journeys with (as in the *Low-Countries*) but for their Exercise, and to warm

themselves upon the Ice They are made of Wood, with a long peece of polished Iron at the bottome, very strait and turned upward at the toe, and that the Iron may the better cut the Ice, they turn their Feet, on the one side and the other, so that they go directly on very fast They have also publique Engins to Swing withal, like a double gallows, having four places for four men, all in an equal distance, where having placed themselves, they swing continually by the Counterpoise they give one another, so that while some swing up to the heighth of a Wind-mill, one may see the others falling near as low as the Ground which they do successively, till they think it fit to hold The Women have Ropes which they swing with, or else they lay a plank cross a block, and mounting one at one end, and the other at the other, they toss themselves up with a very violent motion Their ordinary Musique, is nothing but a bag-pipe, which they accompany some times with the tune of a Song They make so ill use of their Trumpets and Kettle-Drums, that the same render but a harsh and obstreperous Harmony, Their Howboys are much better, which they use before their Infantry in the Wars

§ 5

This being their manner of Living in private, we shall now give an accompt how they regulate themselves in respect of the publick, by the Laws and Customes of their Country, and so having done with their Oeconomy, we shall proceed to their Policie, and after that to their Religion

Policie and Religion are the two Poles, on which the Globe of civil Societie moves And though it is possible some places may be found very barbarous and licentious, where learning and Civility were in no esteem, and where the Government by Kings was not usual, yet it is hard to name any place that hath subsisted without

some Policie or other, and where they have not had some sense or apprehension of a Deitie But amongst all the Policies of the World, Monarchie is manifestly the most advantageous, as most conformable to the Majestie of God, who alone manages and presides over the whole Universe The State of *Moscovie* which is now before us, is Monarchical but it is also Despotical and Absolute, insomuch as the *Tzar* being Lord and Master (as it were) over all his Subjects, disposeth uncontrollably of their lives and estates, as he thinks good And under this kind of Monarchie it was they lived, which were antiently called *Barbarians*, as the *Assyrians*, *Medes*, and *Persians*, whose Princes usurped that Magisterial Authoritie over their Persons and Goods, governing their Subjects no otherwise than as a Lord doth his slaves And such at this day is the Government in *Turky*, where the Grand Segniour hath so absolute a Sovereignitie over his Subjects, that he disposeth of their lives and fortunes, as an absolute Lord But for the better comprehension of the State of *Moscovie* under the Domination of so unquestionable a Prince, it is First to be considered, in what his greatness and Authoritie consists, Secondly the Submission, Obedience, and singular Respect his Subjects bear him, Thirdly the Policie and Order, by which his Dominion over his Subjects is maintained, and the union and concurrence of Obedience in his Subjects preserved and established

The *Tzars* of *Moscovie* having the Power and Right of disposing of the Lives and Estates of their Subjects, in this vast tract of ground under their Dominion, no question but it is absolute over all depending upon that Government It is the *Tzar* alone that gives Laws to the People, it is he that disposeth of the Government of the Provinces, it is he that sends and receives Ambassadors, it is he that levies Imposts and Taxes, and in short, doth every thing that he pleases And from hence it is he is called Grand

Seigneur, and **Tzar*, which is as much as to say, King, or Emperour, else he is called *Velika Knez*, which signifies Great Duke His Armes are an Eagle with two Heads, carrying three Crowns, which import *Moscovie*, *Casan*, & *Astracan*, two Kingdoms he possesses in *Tartary* There is also in his Escutchion, a Cavalier represented in Combat with a Dragon, which without doubt must be intended for *Michael* the Archangel, or *St George* And as the Authoritie of this Prince, must be acknowledged to be great, so his Revenues must be owned to be extraordinary and commensurate For besides his proper Demains, which are very considerable, he hath an incredible Revenue from the Taverns, which he licenseth thorow all his Dominions, besides, five *per* Cent he exacts for all Merchandise imported or exported, and a vast Sum of Money he receives from the Factors he employes himself He hath a great Revenue also out of his Furs, and Cavyar, being a commodity he reserves entirely to himself, he makes very great advantages by that also Yet this I must needs say, that if his Treasure be vast, his Issues and Expences are not small, as well in respect of the Splendour and extraordinary Pompe he lives in, as the continual Wars he maintains with his Neighbors, either the *Swedes*, or the *Polanders*, or else the *Tartars* For which reason he frequently raises mighty Armies, and for his better Success, gives great Pensions to his Officers, which are paid very punctually, and by this means he draws many Strangers to him, whose service he likes very well, and knows which way to gratifie their Prudence and Fidelity True it is, generally upon the commencement of a War, it is the People that supply him according to his demands, by which he gives them severely sometimes to understand the Power he hath over their fortunes and estates

* *Tzar*, is the right pronuntiation according to the *Russes*, therefore I had rather spell it so than *Czar* with a C, as it is commonly written, because it seems to be derived from *Cæsar*

The greatness of this Prince being establisht in this manner, through the vast extent of his Dominion, by the abundance of his Wealth, the magnificence of his Court, and the absolutenesse and indisputableness of his power over all his Subjects, it is not to be doubted but the same imprints a most profound respect in the hearts of the people towards his Person And indeed so abject are they, and submissive to the Sovereigns command, that they will themselves declare their own servitude, and acknowledg they hold their Estates from God and him only Some would not refuse any danger for his sake, and would perhaps many times be over joy'd to expose their innocent lives at the Capriccio or fury of a Tyrant They will freely confess to be his Slaves, and as a Testimony of their Humility, they will never name themselves in his presence but with a diminutive, as if a Petitioners name be *Peter*, he will say *I lttle Peter the humblest of all your Vassals do implore, &c* They boast of nothing more than the sparkling eyes of their Prince, (be he never so short-sighted as *Dyonisius* of *Syracuse* was,) for they cry always, I have had the honor or shall have the honor to see the cleare eyes of our *Tzar* And did not Christian modesty restrain them a little in the Religious respect they bear unto their Monarch, they would be near to fly out into such Extravagant acclamations, as were used to King *Herod*, and say of his voice, that it is the voice of a God, and not of a man They are very careful also of insinuating this Reverence into their Children, and of making them know the Majesty of their Prince, before they are capable of understanding the misery of their condition

And this discipline is principally founded upon three general Maximes, one of which is, That it is prohibited upon pain of death to any man to Travail out of that Country, unless they be the *Tzars* Merchants, or Ministers of State, which he sends to other Princes in quality of Ambassadors The reason is, lest by their Travails into

other parts, they should bring back some new customes at their return, and having tasted the sweetness of the liberty other Nations enjoy, they should some time or other break asunder the chains of their own Servitude. This maxime to us that are enamoured with the happy liberty we are born under, might perhaps seem barbarous and intollerable, but the *Russians* are so accustomed to this kind of Slavery, that they are scarce sensible of it, and do comfort themselves in the vastness of their Country, which affords them space enough for their Travails, and in the Examples of other Countries, which have lived, and do live under the same maxime. The *Lacedæmonians* amongst others, who gloried and boasted that they lived under the greatest liberty, were subject notwithstanding to this Law, & forbidden any Commerce with forreign Nations. Whereas the *Muscovites* are permitted to Traffick with them in their own Country. Which gives me some hopes they will in time leave off that rustick and barbarous humor, which is so natural to them, and learn by degrees to live with more civility, for they are already delighted with the Conversation of forreign Merchants, and do please themselves very much in their manner of living. And were they under a gentler Government, and had a free Trade with every body, no doubt but this Nation would in a short time be taken with our civility and decent way of living. But this maxime that we do now discourse of, has no less effect towards the maintenance of their Religion, than their civil Customes, and is so exactly observed, that the very Strangers themselves that have entred into the service of the *Tzar*, or have otherwise embraced their Religion, are not exempt from it. For to have made himself a servant to the Great Duke, is to have made himself his Slave, and to have taken up his Religion, is to have abandoned his own Country, and to be always confined within the Limits of *Muscovie*. In short, by this Policy it may be easily imagined the *Muscovites* understand little

of Navigation, seeing they exercise it so little and indeed they know no other Compass than the Earth, nor do any of them, except some few fisher-men, expose themselves to the Sea, and they no farther than within sight of the Shore

The Second Maxime the *Tzars* make use of, for maintaining the Policie of their Estate is, That they marry no forreign Princesses, nor look out any farther for a Wife, than their own proper Slaves The other Princes of *Europe*, who are solicitous of nothing but the good and happiness of their Subjects, do comport themselves cleer otherwise, they marry themselves with forreign Ladies for the Alliance of their Nations, and in order to establish a reciprocal and perpetual Amitie betwixt them, for the benefit of both By which means they avoid the insolence of their Wives Relations, which is almost inevitable, where a Prince takes a Wife out of his own Subjects Moreover, it is certainly more honourable and more worthy the Majestie of a King, to espouse a Princess that is not of the number of his Subjects, uniting and mingling, as it were, their Crowns as well as their blood to produce a Posterity perfectly Royal Whereas to take a Wife from that infinite distance, which there is betwixt a King and a Subject, to join her to the Crown, to descend from his Throne, as it were, to raise her up thither, who perhaps is very unfit for so great an elevation, is no less than to prostitute and debase the Majestie of a Monarch Yet amongst the *Tzars* of *Moscovy* it is very usual, lest by introducing a foreign Princess she should bring some new Customes along with her, which in time might cause some alteration in the State And from hence it was, that this present *Tzar* vouchsafed on Shrove-Sunday 1647 (which was then the seventeenth year of his Age and the second of his Reign) to marry the eldest Daughter of *Iha-Damlovitz Miloslausky*, a person at that time in no excellent Condition, for to speak properly, there was nothing but the Beauty of his Daughter

to induce the *Tzar* to honour him with so great a Relation

The Third Maxime by which their Policie and Religion is preserved, is their Ignorance of Learning, which is so well established in this Country, that they never learn farther than to write and read their own Language And indeed Experience doth teach us this truth, that Seditions and Revolutions have not been any where so frequent as in Commonwealths, where Learning was commonly in great esteem, and even when it triumphed most The reason of which is plain, forasmuch as Ambition and Pride march alwaies in the Rear of great Knowledge whereas Ignorance (as is evident amongst the Peasants and common People every where) renders them more supple and obedient And this *Valentian* and *Lacinius* Emperors of *Rome* had experience of, when they termed Learning the Plague and Poison of a Kingdom *Lycurgus* was not far from this opinion, when he establisht Ignorance in his Republique And we see at this day the greatest Enemy of Christendom triumphing, partly by vertue of this Maxime, over all the Monarchs of this Age The *Tzars* of *Muscovie* also find great benefit by this Policy, which conduces much to the easie Conservation of Obedience in their Subjects towards their Sovereign Empire So that the *Muscovites* have this advantage, that they quietly enjoy their apprehensions of Nature, as they are at first sight represented to their sense, or their reasons, without any scandalous Imputation of Ignorance They do not trouble themselves with the heighth of the Heavens, nor the greatness of the Earth, whether the Sun (as *Anaximenes* thought) be as flat as a Trencher, or whether it be hunch backed underneath like a Cockboat, as *Heracitus* held, or whether it be round or square They disturb not their heads with the dimensions of the Moon, to know whether she be hung loose in the Air, or inhabited or not, whether the Stars be but Earth Muminated as *Thales* maintained

or whether perfect fire as *Plato* They leave Nature to it self, and think it sufficient to know who is its Author, to discover the use of things by experience, and to give God thanks as they are able They amuse not themselves to make Syllogismes, after the Model of *Barbara* or of *Festino*, to dispute whether *Logick* be an *Art* or *Science*, nor to determine sundry other curious and impertinent questions, which though of no use but to molest and torture the brain, are yet at this day amongst the learned people, in great practice and use, upon a meer principle of Curiosity, Ambition, or Interest In stead of Books the *Muscovites* use Rolls of Paper as the Jews did sometimes, they glue every leaf together by the ends, with a certain Glue they have out of *Siberia* a Province of the *Tzars*, which they moisten only with the end of their tongue, and drawing it upon the Edges of the two leaves they are to joyn, they put the Edges upon one another, which fasten so close, it is scarce perceivable where they are joyned, and in this manner they make Rolls sometimes of seven or eight Fathoms long

Furthermore, amongst the Magistrates that Govern *Muscovie* in their Council of State, there are in the first place thirty Noblemen or Boiars, so properly called which the *Tzar* obliges to be Resident in *Mosco* After them there be the *Ocholnitz*,* the *Dumeny Duorainy*,† the *Sin Boyarsky*, the Chancellor & two Secretaries of State There are six appartements in the Council of the Great Duke, the first is designed for forraign affairs, the second for Military, the third for the Exchequer and the Treasury of the *Tzar*, the fourth for receiving the Accounts of his Factors, and such as have the Superintendance of the Taverns, the fifth for Civil Processes, and the sixth for Criminals Their Council is commonly held in the Night,

* *Ocholnitz*, that is to say a Privy Councillor

† *Dumeny Duorainy* signifies the same Office but in lower degree

and the *Tzar* changes the Governours of his Provinces every three Years

There is no room for subtilties or wrangling in this Country, they dispatch their Suits in a short time, according to the plainness and paucity of their Laws So that the Attorneys and Solicitors are there of as little use and concernment as the Philosophers

Amongst other punishments that they use, they have one they call *Battoke*, which has much affinity with that which God ordained in the time of *Moses* for the people of *Israel*, as appears in the 25 Chapter of *Deuteronomy* They strip the condemned person to his Shirt, *e g* for having been the Author of some Riot, pilfering, or some other such small crime as is not worthy of death, Who then laying himself flat upon his Belly on the ground, there are two Men placed on each side of him, which give him as many blows with a Cudgel one after another, as the Judge that presides does condemn him to, sixteen, twenty or thirty, more or less, according to the quality and proportion of the offence he has committed And as soon as his accompt is made up, he rises and makes his reverence to the person that condemned him, Not much unlike the *Persians*, who after correction returned, and gave their King thanks for his great Bounty in remembring them The *Muscovites* use this kind of Chastisement in their private Families also, especially the Nobility, who have commonly great store of Slaves, who without respect of their Society are oftentimes constrained to beat one another till the blood follows They have another sort of punishment with a Whip, which is much crueller, and inflicted by the hands of the Executioner, when the correction is publique The Whip is made of the skin of an Elke cut into several thongs, which pierces the skin in such manner, that at the very first lash it oftentimes leaves bloody impressions behind it, their Capital punishment which they use commonly for those that are condemned

to die, is cutting off their heads, and to extort Evidences they use the *Strapado*

As for their Money, they have but one kind which they call *Copeca*, fifty of which make a Crown, 'tis of Silver, of an Oval figure, and so small that the value of two Crowns will scarce bear the bulk of four pence in French Deniers, that which they call *Muscofske* is the fourth part of a *Copeca*, *Poluske* is the half, an *Alim* is three pence, a *Grifna* is ten, a *Rouble* a hundred, but these are not to be had of one piece

There are two things further remarkable in the commune Society of the *Moscovites*, one is that they begin their day at the rising of the Sun, and end it at the setting, so that their Night begins as soon as the Sun is down, and ends when it rises By which means they confound that which we call the Natural day with the Artificial, which extends it self from the rising to the setting of the Sun The other is, that they begin their Year the first day of *September*, as allowing no other Epoche than from the Creation of the World which they believe was in Autumn And they reckon according to the opinion of the *Greeks*, five thousand five hundred and eight Years from the Creation of the World, to the Nativity of our Saviour, whereas we accompt but three thousand nine hundred and sixty nine So that in the Year of our Lord 1663 when we arrived in *Moscovite*, they reckoned 7175 Years from the Creation, whilst we accounted but 5636 Every first day of the Year, they have great Processions in their considerable Townes

§ 6

And thus far we have given you the Policie or publique Comportment of the *Moscovite* in the World I shall now give you some hints of their Religion

The Religion of the *Russes* is the same with the Profession of the *Greeks*, they follow their Faith. their Rites, and their

Ceremonies The principal part of their Devotion after they are Baptized, consists in the Invocation of their Saints For every Family hath its Saint pictured, and hung up against the wall of the Chamber, with a small wax Candle before it, which they light when they make their Invocations Their Churches also are all adorned with Pictures, very ill drawn, and in flat painting, for they will endure no Images embost Over the Porch of their Churches, in their Market places, and over the Gates of their Cities, they have alwaies the picture of the Virgin *Mary*, or their Patron St *Nicholas* And amongst them these Images are in such Veneration, that all that pass that way make a stand for a while before them, till they have made Reverences to them five or six times one after another, which is performed by crossing themselves with three Fingers of their right Hand, and by saying with a low voice, *Gospodi Pomilui*, which is as much as to say, *God have mercy on me*

They do address themselves with the same Veneration and Prayers to the Crosses they meet by the way, so that they are observed to stop themselves every moment And these profound Reverences to their Images, and the signing themselves with the Cross at the same time, and crying *Gospodi Pomilui*, is almost all the Devotions the Parents do teach their Children When a *Moscovite* enters into another Man's house, he first looks about for the Saint, and having paid his Reverence there, he turns about and salutes the Family When they buy any of these Images, they take great caution of saying, they have bought them, but choose rather to say, they have changed them for Silver When they grow old or rotten, they either bury them with some Ceremonie, or throw them into some River, and expose them to the mercy of the Current In short, the sign of the Cross is so usual amongst them, that they are perpetually at it, and do make it the ordinary preface of all their civil Actions

On Sundays and their Festival days, they go three times to Church, Morning, Noon, and Evening, and are standing and uncovered all the time of Divine service, for which reason, they have neither benches nor seats in their Churches. The most devout enter not into the Church, but perform their devotion at the door amongst the Women, who being lookt upon as more impure than the Men, have not so easie an admission as they. They have no preaching amongst them, so that their whole Service consists in the reading of certain Psalmes or Chapters in the Bible by their Priest, and (upon occasion) *Athanasius* his Creed, or else they Sing their Prayers with a very high voice, and adding sometimes after that a Homily of St *Chrysostome*. They say their Prayers standing, only when they come to the *Gospod*, they bow their Heads to the very ground, beating it with their fore-head. And this is the whole Service of their Sundays, in which many amongst them forbear not any labour or travail. As to their Festivals, besides their Sundays, they observe but fifteen, that is to say, the Nativity of the Virgin *Mary*, on the eighth of *September*, the Exaltation of the Cross, the fourteenth of the same, the Oblation of the Virgin *Mary*, the one and twentieth of *November*, the Nativity of our blessed Saviour, the five and twentieth of *December*, the Epiphany or Feast of Kings on the sixth of *January*, Candlemas day, on the second of *February*, the Annuntiation of the Virgin *Mary*, on the five and twentieth of *March*, Palm-Sunday, Easter-day, Ascension-day, Whit-Sunday, the Feast of the Trinity next day after the Pentecost, All Saints-day the Sunday after, the Manifestation of the Glory of Christ upon the Mountain, being the sixth of *August*, and the Ascension of the Virgin the fifteenth of the same.

If there be any Religion that obliges its Professors to a severe Mortification, this must needs be confest to do it with most Rigour. For besides that they fast ordinarily

on Wednes-days, Fridays, and the Eves before holy-days, they have four Lents every year. The longest of them is like ours, of seven weeks, there is another that begins Eight dayes after the Pentecost and lasts to St *Peters* day, the third holds them the first of *August* to the sixteenth, and the fourth from the twelfth of *November* till Christmas day. During these Lents they Eat neither butter nor eggs nor milk, only the first weeke of their chief Lent they have liberty for all kind of Excess, save eating of flesh. And indeed in this week (which serves them as a Carneval) their extravagancies are incredible, and as if their debauches were a preparative to their fasting, the insolencies of drunken men are such, that at *Moscow* especially, it is very unsafe walking the streets in the night. But after this week they live so soberly that the most strict of them eat no fish but on sundays, and drink nothing at all but *Quaz* or fair water. They content them selves with pulse, and hearbs, but above all with Garlick and Onyons, of which they stink very enormously all Lent long, only now and then they indulge and sweeten themselves with hony.

In their Confessions they stand upright before their Images, and when the Priest gives them absolution, he obliges them to certain penancies, the greatest of which is, that they abstain from *aqua vitæ*. Or else they enjoin them when they come to Church to come no further than the Porch, to pronounce so many times the *Gospodi*, to make such a number of reverences to their Saints, to wash themselves with holy water, which is consecrated on the Epiphany, and which the Priests know very well how to distribute for their own advantage.

They commonly take the Communion on a Fasting day at Noon-service, and if any one receives on a Sunday, he must that day eat no Kind of flesh. It is administred in both Kinds with leavened bread, and wine mingled

with warm water, which represents the believers, or rather (according to a Councel of the East assembled at Constantinople) the water that came forth with the blood from the most pretious side of our Saviour There are none that receive in one kind only but children under seven years old, at which age as soon as they are arrived, they are admitted to communicate in both because (say they) at that age they begin to sin Mortally Some there are that will sleep as soon as they have received, to prevent by that means any occasion of sinning If a Priest on the Communion-day happen to touch any dead Corps, or be present at any funerall, he is lookt upon as defiled, and can neither Consecrate nor Administer the Sacrament that day But for what *Olearius* alledges, that they believe a Transubstantiation, I could not perceive any such thing And I have three reasons that do principally perswade me they are not yet fallen under so great an Errour The first is, that when one discourses with them about the consequences of that belief, they will own it to be irrationall, and declare it absurd and ridiculous, and they never betake themselves (as the Catholicks do) to God's Omnipotence to maintain it The Second is, that if they did believe a reall Transubstantiation, they would show more respect than they do to that mystery, and indeed it would be very strange, if in a Religion so precise and superstitious as theirs, they should want Zeal and Adoration at a time wherein it ought to be most Eminent as it is amongst the *Roman* Catholicks And lastly were they of this opinion, which *Olearius* imputes to them, it must have bin derived to them from the *Greeks*, from whom they received the scheme of their Religion, but neither do we find the *Greeks* under so great a blindnesse

Amongst the *Moscovites* they have yearly many Processions, but the principall and most solemne is on Palmesunday, by which is represented our Saviours Enting

into *Jerusalem* They have Saints also that perform great miracles, if one will believe the stories they tell of them Amongst the Rest, there is one of them called *Serge*, at *Troitza*, in the richest and most beautifull Convent in all *Moscovy*, in which place he lived formerly so religiously, that at last he wrought Miracles He died in the year 1563 and yet as we past by *Troitza* (which is a Town near *Moscow*) they told us his countenance was as fresh as when he died And to this Convent the *Tzar* does usually go in Pilgrimage twice every year, he comes on horseback within a league of the place, and then walks the rest on foot

The Religious or Monasticks eat no flesh in their Convents, nor drink any thing but *Quaz*, but when they are out of their Convents, they have liberty to drink what they please In this Country a man may forsake his Wife, and Children, and betake himself to a Convent, if a Woman be barren, her Husband hath power to quit himself of her, and dispose her into a Religious house, and the *Tzars* themselves when they have none but Daughters, do serve theirs in the same kind

They do not believe there is a Purgatorie, but they hold there are two distinct places where the Souls that are separated from their bodies do remain in expectation of the day of Judgment One of them is the Mansion of the Blessed, where they enjoy (as they believe) the conversation of Angels, with all sort of Pleasure and Delight, the Other of the Wicked, in a dismal Valley, where they have no other associates but Devils Notwithstanding, they believe the Souls of the Wicked are not altogether incapable of Comfort, but that by the prayers and the perfumes of their Priests, they may be forced back out of the very jaws of Hell And for this cause their Priests will pray over their Sepulchers morning and night, for forty days, which is the term of their Mourning, in memory of their departed Friends, and on the Eve before the

Pentecost they perform certain annuall Ceremonies in their behalf, which though very formal, are altogether most ridiculous

In their Hierarchie, they have for their chief a Patriarch, elected by the *Tzar*, and it is this Patriarch that judges in all Causes Ecclesiasticall, and disposes absolutely in all matters of Religion, He hath his pallace in *Mosco* in the great Dukes Castle After him, there are several Metropolitans and Bishops, disperst into sundry parts of the Country The rest of the Clergy is composed of Proto-popes, and Popes, or simple Priests, which are obliged (contrary to all other Ecclesiasticall Persons) to marry before they receive Orders, but if their wife dies, they are to remaine widdowers as long as they live, because (say they) the Apostle would have a Bishop to be the husband but of one wife in the *1 Tim ch 3* whereas Saint *Pauls* meaning is that a Bishop should have but one wife at a time, Poligamy being in his time a very Ordinary vice And hence it is that one of these Priests being a widdower is not permitted to administer the Sacrament, nor to marry, he has only liberty to assist at Morning and Evening service, not at Noon, at which time they usually Communicate as I have said before Nevertheless, if one of these Priests be unsatisfied with his Condition, he may freely relinquish his charge, and lay by his vest and his Cap which they put upon him at his Consecration, and after that become a Mechanick if he thinks it for his advantage

QUESTIONS ON CHAPTER IV

A

What do you learn from this chapter of the Russian

- 1 Climate
- 2 Food, drink and clothing
- 3 Houses
- 4 Amusements
- 5 Government
- 6 Religious Observances ?

B

1 Find on the map as many as you can of the places, etc , mentioned in this chapter

- 2 Draw a picture of a Russian in full dress
- 3 How did royal marriages in Russia differ from those in other countries ? Which do you think is the better system ?
- 4 What was the state of learning in Russia ?
- 5 What was the condition of women in Russia ?
- 6 What light does the evident surprise and interest shown by Miegé at certain features of Russian life throw on contemporary life in England ?
- 7 Do you consider Miegé a good observer of small details ? Does he show any method in his collection of facts ?
- 8 What are Miegé's own social and political and religious opinions ?

C

- 1 How does the information about Russia given in the second part of *Robinson Crusoe* compare with Miegé's account ?
- 2 How does the present Government of Russia differ from that here described ?
- 3 What is caviare ? How is it mentioned in *Hamlet* ?
- 4 Compare the Government of the Tsar in 1663 with that of Charles II in England
- *5 How did English houses in 1663 differ from Russian ?

CHAPTER V

OF THE AMBASSADORS STAY AT ARCHANGEL

HAVING given a sufficient description of *Moscovie*, it is time we return now to speak againe of our Voyage, But before we leave *Archangel*, it will be convenient to say something of the Town, and that little Residence we made there

The Town of *Archangel* (so called from St *Michael* the Arch-angel) is situated on the bank of the River *Durna*, on the left hand as you pass from the *White Sea*. When we were there it was not very great, but yet so populous by reason of the great trading thither, that it was scarce capable of all the Inhabitants. And indeed it is in respect of the Commerce especially, that this Town is so considerable, for hither it is that the *English* & the *Hollander*, amongst other Commodities, transport Cloth, Velvets, Damask, Spices, Tinn, Lead, Wine, and strong Waters. But because the *Moscovites* swallow down small Wines like River water, therefore they send them no *French* nor *Rhenish* Wines, as being not strong enough for them. On the *Moscovites* side there is great store of Corn exported, of Cavyar, Furs, Hemp, Russia-leather, and Wax. It is above an hundred years since this trade was brought hither by the *English* from *Narve*, in the time of *Edward* the sixth King of *England*, and *Ivan Basilovitz* Emperour of *Moscovie*.

For *Edward* the sixth having set out a Fleet, for the establishing a Trade in some unknown Country, the Fleet having followed the Northern passage, was at length brought unto this Port. And hence it was that *Ivan Basilovitz* (to recompence the generous designs of the *English*, whose pains and industry had opened a Trade into these parts)

gave them a Priviledge of Commerce to that Town without any Custome or Impost And this was the occasion upon which the great Amity betwixt the two Crowns was established, to the no small Advantage both of the one and the other

After we, that made our Voyage in the Merchant-man, were arrived at *Archangel*, his Excellency inquired particularly into the causes of our delay, and of Mr *Watsons* desertion, who was parted from us Upon which the Master of the Ship made a great Apology for himself, laying the fault upon the winds, and taking occasion of Mr *Watson's* absence, he accused him also (besides many particular points) of being partly the cause that our Expedition had been no greater But it was answered sufficiently against the Masters Calumnies, both by the Sea-men and us And indeed had the Master come to an harbour either in *Norway* or *Scotland*, as he was often desired by Mr *Watson*, rather than stay till the Ship was bruised to pieces to get her repaired in *England*, sixty or seventy Leagues out of our way, it is very likely we might have been two or three Weeks sooner at our Port And so it was doubtless rather the Master of the Ships than Master *Watsons* fault, that we had stayed so long behind my Lord Ambassador, and that his Excellency had not only the apprehension we should have been cast away, but the continuation of his Voyage differed very long, to some great disadvantage

However, while the Ambassador stayed at *Archangel*, he had all manner of good Entertainment, which tasted very pleasant to us, who newly had made an end of a long and very hard Voyage amongst the troubles of the Sea Therefore we took our good share of it, and in the mean time we took also a view of the Town while we had opportunity, during one Weeks time his Excellency stayed in it since our arrival. As for the Entertainment given us in this Town, it was indeed so great and plentiful with all

kind of Provision, that we wanted nothing but a great number of Cooks to get it dressed, and more People to consume it And that we took to be a good Omen for the rest of our Travails thorough that Country but we were mistaken in it, for we experienced the contrary in several places upon a very bad account Howsoever the Ambassadors meat was alwaies dressed after the *English* and *French* way by his own Cooks, and all the bread that was eaten at his Table, was made also by his own Baker What was eaten besides, was after the *Moscovite* fashion which seemed at first something strange to us, for they bake it in such manner that it hath scarce any crust at all As for Drink, we were plentifully provided with Beer, Mead, *Aqua-vitæ*, divers sorts of Wines, and *Spanish* amongst the rest The Ambassadors from the *Tzar*, who about two moneths before had arrived at *Archangel* from *London*, had without question given us fair recommendation by the report they had published at this Town, and thorough the whole Road to *Mosco*, of the extraordinary Reception which had been given them by the King of great *Britain*

Here I shall take the liberty of speaking something of the People called *Samojedes*, upon occasion of some of them that we saw at *Archangel* They are of a Country very barbarous, but under the *Tzars* dominion, and of a long time instructed in the Religion of the *Greeks* Their Habitation is under the frozen Zone, near the antient *Scythia*, toward the *Ryphean* or *Hyperborean* Mountains, which are next neighbours to *Petzora* which I have mentioned before The word *Samojedes* denotes what they have formerly been, viz *Anthropophagi* or such as eat mansflesh for *Samojedes* is composed of *Sam* which signifies ones self, and *Jeda* which signifies to eat, and indeed they did use to eat the bodies of their dead friends with Venison The ~~King~~ (that robs them of his presence in their Country five or six Months every year) obligeth them to make provision

in summer of whatever is necessary for their livelyhood in so tedious an obscurity, against which they have no better remedy than the brightness of their lamps, which are fed with a certain oyl drawn out of Fish It is reported that their houses are built half way under ground, and that for their mutual conversation in winter, they are forced to make trenches in stead of streets, and that in summer time they march out from their imprisonment at their Chumneys Their Common sustenance is Venison, honey, or a certaine fish dried in the Wind or the Sun, without any bread at all They wear a Kind of Vest half way down their legs which they make of Buck skins or the skins of Rein Deer with the Furrs turned outwards These Vests have no other parts open than the bottom by which they get into them, and the upper part where they put out their face, for they cover the head with it as the *Capuchinos* do but the cap has the same fashion with the head of a Man At the end of their sleeves they have their Muffs Sown half on, that they may have it at their choice, to make use of them or let them hang loose as they have occasion They wear Bootes, but with the Furr on the outside, which Garb appears so horrid, that it is a hard matter at first sight not to be frighted to see them habited in furs like savage Beasts Under their Vests they wear shirts made of the skins of young Reine Deer which are much softer than linnen, and under those shirts Drawers They use also a very large sort of Bonnets which hang down round about their shoulders, and are commonly made of cloth and lined with furr Their Stature is but low, their Faces flatt and broad like the *Tartars*, and their Hair long Two or three of these *Samojedes* were brought to his Excellency, with whom he entertained himself for some time with several questions which he askt them touching their manner of living He had the diversion also to see them dance after the mode of their Country, which was the most ridiculous in the World

The Preparation his Excellence made for his Voiage up the River consisted of six barges or great boates for his train and baggage, of which one was set apart for his Kitchin, and a hearth and Chimney contrived in it, and an other for his Coach horses Besides these six there was one Barque peculiar to the *Pristaff*, who resolved to carry his wife along with him The day of our departure being at hand, his Excellence and all his Gentlemen provided themselves with gowns and coats lined with furr, some of martin, others of sables, beaver, fox, or squirell, to defend themselves from the severity of the Cold which was sufficiently increased at *Archangel* when we arrived there The most of them bought Caps lined with furr according to the *Polonian* fashion, some bought also their Caps like the *Samojedes*, others for curiosity sake bought whole suits ready made, which cost them but about ten shillings The Governor of the Town also would needs give us supplies against the Winter, and present most of my Lord Ambassadors domesticks with Sheep skins drest after the fashion of *Moscovie*, and some fair Buck skins to ly upon instead of quilts

CHAPTER VI

OF HIS EXCELLENCIES VOIAGE FROM ARCHANGEL TO VOLOGDA, UPON THE RIVERS OF DUINA AND SUCAGNA

ON Saturday the twelfth of *September* his Excellence departed from *Archangel* with all his Train, and came the next day to *Colmogro*, and on the nineteenth to *Arsinoia*, which is two hundred and fifty Versts (every Verst being the fourth part of a League) from *Archangel* On the two and twentieth we parted from *Arsinoia*, and on the seven and twentieth arrived at *Yagrish* one hundred and thirty long Versts, and from *Yagrish* to *Ustiga*, which is one hundred and fifty Versts in five days The third of *October*

we left *Ustiga* (which is almost half way betwixt *Archangel* and *Vologda*) and on the twelfth arrived at *Tetma*, which from *Ustiga* is two hundred and fifty Versts From thence in three days we came to *Chousca* one hundred and forty Versts, and on Saturday the seventeenth of *October* we arrived at *Vologda*, which is ninety Versts from *Chousca* So as this Voiage of two hundred and fifty Leagues took us up five weeks compleat, in the Relation of which I shall first speak something in general concerning the manner of our Navigation

We made no use of Horses for the haling our Barques from *Archangel* to *Vologda*, but (notwithstanding it was up the River) we performed all with men, so that ordinarily we had no less than three hundred with us The River is not very rapid but in certain places, where we were sometimes constrained to imploy the Water-men of two boats for drawing up a single one against the opposition of the stream But his Excellence fearing (and not without reason) the River would freez before we could finish our Voiage, he entreated the *Pristaf Bogdan* to go before, that we might have fresh watermen ready at our arrival in every relay, & that all necessary provisions being provided before hand, we might have no occasion to lose our time But this care was very ill seconded by our Pilots, who ran us several times upon ground, so that sometimes we spent two or three hours in disengaging a boat from the Rocks And sometimes we received so horrible concussions, that it was a wonder the barque was not broke to pieces under us, and this gave one occasion to say, that peradventure the Boats did break the Rocks In the night time ordinarily the Boat-men made fires in the Woods, as if they would have set all *Moscovie* on fire, and when they had done, laid themselves down by it to sleep very civilly upon the banks of the River

We had alwaies very good provision of Victuals, and especially of strong Waters, of Wine, Mead, and Quaz,

of which we laded a barque at *Archangel* to serve us the whole Voyage The Barque which we had made our Kitchen, furnished all the rest with meat, and in particular his Excellencies, by getting them close one to another, in such a manner, that those that were in the Ambassador's Vessel received the dishes from the hands of the Cooks, to carry them two or three steps to his Table Whereas the other boats were glad to make use of their skifs to fetch their provision dayly

In this Voyage Walking was our greatest Recreation, for whilst our barques were drawn by the men, and advanced but a small pace, we went a-shore in our skifs The Shadows and Umbrages which the continual Forests cast upon the River, the excellent Verdure wherewith they were adorned all the way, together with the favourableness of the Weather invited us to it, and many times made us lose all sense of weariness, sometimes also we had the diversion of Shooting, by reason of the many wild Ducks and Pigeons that *Moscovie* is provided with In short, we saw never a Town considerable enough to have any particular Description *Ustiga* (which is the principal in a Province of that name) is the greatest we saw, but it is built of wood, as the rest are, and paved only with piles of Firr True it is here we had now and then liberty to see their Churches, which in *Mosco* they will not permit to Strangers of another Religion, for they believe them profaned, when any such set their feet in them Betwixt *Archangel* and *Ustiga* we saw several Rocks of Alabaster, or white Marble, as we passed upon the River

This being the manner of our Voyage, it remains now that we present you with some circumstances that happened in our Navigation

And first of all it was usual as we past by any Village, to have the Priest come to his Excellencies boat, with a

present of Fish, autumnal Goose-berries, or sometimes a Hen with some few Eggs, in hopes of receiving some reward from the Ambassador And drinking *Aqua vitæ*, which they gusled down with so much pleasure, they commonly went home again drunk

The next day after we parted from *Archangel*, the *Pristaf* brought his Wife into the Ambassadors barque She was very richly dressed with Pearls and precious Stones, and (had she not been painted) might have past for very handsome, however his Excellence vouchsafed to honour her with a Salute, and entertained her with great Civility, presenting her according to the custome of the place with a Cup of *Aqua vitæ*, till Dinner came in Within a little time after she was unhappily deprived of her Husband, for being arrived at *Ustga*, he found himself seised with a distemper which in a short time ended both his Life and Voiage

Being arrived near *Arsinoa* the Ambassador expecting to have found boat-men ready for his departure, was constrained himself to provide them, after he had attended three whole days The Governour of this Town had had advertisement from the Governour of *Archangel* to have all things ready in good time, and the like notice he had also from the *Pristaf*, but he despised all, and ranted (as if he had been in a frenzy) against all such as were employed in the business, resolving the Ambassador should go back if he pleased, rather than he would be troubled with any thing So that his Excellence was necessitated at his own proper charges to hire some of the Water-men that had brought us from *Colmogro* to carry us to *Yagrish*, and to engage the rest at *Arsinoa* In the mean while we saw a Wolf upon the bank of the River running up and down, which some fancied was the Governour dressed in that disguise, to take a view of the Ambassador and his train We clapt some dogs after him immediately, but he ran the foile so cunningly, that we lost him in a moment

On the 26 of *September* at Night there was an unlucky accident befel fifteen of our boatmen, who put themselves in a huddle into a skif to come to one of the barques, and falling down the River, suffered their boat to be carried away by the stream with that violence, that it fell foul upon one of the barques, and was overturned, and seven of the fifteen were drowned, the rest saving themselves by swimming. Another time one of our water-men fell off the Decks into the River, and having no skill in swimming, he was in the greatest danger of the World, But as he was just sinking, a Boat was presently dispatched, which took him up, and after he had drunk two or three good draughts of strong Waters, he found himself very well again. Which made me imagine that had the water of the River been *Aqua vitæ*, he would have thought they had done him a great injury to preserve him, and would rather have chose to have died with that plenty than to have lived in want of it. About this time also we received the News that *Archangel* was burnt, and almost all reduced into ashes presently after our departure.

The Governor of *Ustuga* expressed great Civilities to my Lord Ambassador, and was clearly of another humour than the Governor of *Arsinoæ*, yet it was without violating a Custom they have to see no foreign Ambassadors themselves. Neverthelesse he tendred his service and all that he was able to do by one of his Gentlemen, and provided us abundantly with all things necessary for our Voyage by the means of two honest Officers which he deputed *Pr. staffs* in the place of *Bogdan* lately deceased. For this reason his Excellence would not depart from thence till he had made him some acknowledgment, and presented him by one of his Gentlemen with three douzain bottels of Canary and French wine. We stayed only two days in this Town, and from thence made all possible hast because the River began to be frozen. At this time every of our barques having two Masts, one for our Sayles and

another for our Ropes, we were fain to cut our Sayls Mast to make our barques the lighter, for betwixt *Ustiga* and *Vologda*, they cannot in those large Boats upon the River *Sucagna* (which runs into the *Duma* hard by) make use of their Sayles by reason of the great number of Rocks betwixt *Ustiga*, and *Tetma* His Excellence to lighten his Vessel yet more, left there a hundred Ingots or Rigs of lead, for notwithstanding it was still haled with three-score and ten men, it nevertheless went the most heaviely of them all, because of its bulk and freight For besides seven or eight boatmen who guided it, there were always aboard the same thirty persons, besides a great quantity of Goods, which was the cause that several in that Vessel were very narrowly lodged This Lead above-mentioned was designed amongst the rest of the presents for the *Tzar* which the King of *England* sent him, and for that purpose was brought to his Excellence a little after our arrival at *Vologda*

And now by this time the Winter was so farr advanced, that our Voiage began to be grievous and insupportable, for there being no Convenience for fire to warm our selves we had no relief but from our furs, and strong waters (which we began to take down in good lusty draughts) or else by walking, although the ground was already covered with snow Insomuch that in a short time we were all in our Robes, some like *Moscovites*, others like the *Samojedes*, and some of them in their Sheep-skin Vests with long sleeves, resembling those old and eternal Destinies, whom *Venus* did so laugh at when she saw them in their habits, those like the *Samojedes* looking so hideously that we made a good sport with them At length we found the frost increasing by degrees, so that at our parting from *Chousca* we found the River so frozen to *Vologda* about twenty miles, that we were forced to break the ice before our first Vessel which guided the rest in the way

At *Tetma* we were no sooner arrived but the Governor

came, though it was night, to salute the Ambassador, who surprised with the unusualness of his civility, received him with great courtesy and treated him in his Barque. The Governor was in his person like a *Boyar*, thick, and fat, and corpulent, as most of the Governors of Provinces generally are, otherwise he was a pleasant man, good company, and very richly clad. He expressed great civilities to the Ambassador, tending his assistance in any thing which lay in his power, in acknowledgment whereof his Excellence sent him a present the next morning of three *Els* of scarlet cloth by Mr *Taylor* his Steward. He received it with great Kindness and thanks, and presented Mr *Taylor* with a pair of Sables worth about four pounds sterling, at the same time expressing a desire once more to recreate himself aboard us. His Excellence being gone, Mr *Taylor* prepared to entertain him, and conspired with some other Gentlemen who were in his boat to try whether the Governors head were able to bear a lusty cup or no. But the design succeeded very ill, for he defended himself so well in this debauch, that he came off much better than all the rest.

CHAPTER VII

OF HIS EXCELLENCIES RESIDENCE IN THE TOWN OF VOLOGDA

VOLOGDA is the chief City of a Province of the same name, it is very considerable both in respect of its bigness, and of a strong stone wall which surrounds it. The River makes it a place of great trading, therefore very populous. It is situate on the right hand of the River, like *Ustiga*, *Colmogro*, and *Tetma*, all raised upon the banks, and the River running under them.

Our Lodgings were taken up in the Suburbs of the Town near the Rivers side but the houses there being small

and incapable of such a number, we were forced to take up six or seven more, and lye dispersed about the Town In this posture we continued three months in this place, contrary to his Excellencies design, who was to pass immediately to *Mosco*, as soon as it was possible for him to travail in Sledges and therefore he resolved to attend, till the frost hardning the snow should make the ways passable At our first coming we did not think to stay above a month, the ground having been a long time covered with snow, and the aire in appearance disposed to freeze it well Yet after our arrival the weather proved so moist, that in a short time we saw the ground uncovered, and the River giving free passage to the Boats So that in the mean while we passed our time very ill, in respect of the raine and dirt, which was so great, that for the space of a month or five weeks, we scarce ever durst set a foot in the Streets But that which was an Aggravation of our trouble, was an impatience we all had to be at *Mosco*, and indeed it was a hard matter for us to be satisfied in a Town that kept us so long from that where his Excellencies Embassie to the *Tzar* determined, and where we hoped to have a happy repose In the mean time from the first day of our arrival we began to warm our chambers with our furnaces of stone, which is indeed a very convenient invention in so cold a Country but not being able to endure them to that degree of heat the *Moscovites* do, we were fain to use them with more moderation

At first our Entertainment was very good, and regulated as the Ambassador pleased, so that we had plenty enough of all things, and yet nothing superfluous But as Soon as *Nestrof* and *Davidof* (which the *Tzar* had sent from his Court in the quality of *Pristsafs* to conduct his Excellence to *Mosco*) were arrived at *Vologda* in the Month of *December*, our diet and accommodation was so altered and retrenched that there could be nothing more mean and dishonourable *Nestrof*, was a *Stolnick* (which is as much as to say, a Gentle-

man waiting at the *Tzars* Table) the other was a *Diack* (which is an office importing something higher than a Secretary, but lower than a Chancellor) *Nestrof* was he that took all upon him, managed the whole Oeconomie, and made all things depend upon his own conduct His arrogance had no bounds in all his actions, nor was it less remarkable in his languages he was a person like himself in every thing, and little cared to dissemble himself a civil man This was the form of his Complement to the Ambassador the next day after his arrival, having with a grave impudence and austere brow entered the Hall, where his Excellence received them, *The most Serene (saies he) and Puissant Great Lord, Tzar and Grand Duke, Alexey Michailovitz,* (with a long enumeration of Titles, which had been Treason in him to have omitted) *is very joyful to understand that you the great Ambassador of his Majestie of Great Brittain, &c are so happily arrived here, and hath commanded, that We and your Excellence go together to Mosco* Not contenting himself to say bluntly, *the Tzar had commanded him* (designing thereby to bring the Ambassador under the *Tzar's* command) with yet higher incivility he preferred his own person and his associates before his Excellence, when he said, *the Tzar had commanded them and his Excellence to go in company to Mosco*, True it is he sweetened his discourse a little afterwards, when having preferred himself before, he condescended to make him his companion in these words, *We must go in company together to Mosco*, and it was a wonder to me (as he had placed the Ambassador in his Speech) he did not say, *and you must come after me* This is the Character of *Nestrof*, the most insolent and rude man we met with in all *Moscovie*, he it was who undertook to regulate our Table as soon as he arrived, before he had ever thought of regulating the insolence of his Nature, as if he had believed his credit and authority could not have any way been signified better, than by rendering himself surly, proud, and insupportable

It was at this time one of their Lents, and we observed it so strictly, that we could scarce get Tallow or Wax candles, for nothing could escape the good husbandrie of *Nestrof*. There was nothing wherein he did not retrench us, insomuch that at one blow we were fallen from plenty to want, and instead of making our residence there comfortable to us, he disobliged us so much, that from his first arrival we had reason to admire the civility of our treatment at *Archangel*. In the mean time we comforted our selves in the Shortness of the days, and the Hopes we had of departing suddainly for *Mosco*, where our condition was like to be much better.

The affaires of our House being thus established, the Ambassador took particular care of our Devotions. He appointed the Chaplain to read Prayers twice a day, and that there should be a Sermon every Sunday. He commanded all his domestiques to be constantly present at the same, the Catholicks only excepted, in which number he had four *French* men: the Chirurgeon, the Confectioner, and two Cooks. These had all their liberty of Conscience, but it was very seldom they made use of it. At Christmas we received the Communion.

Amongst all the Divertisements we had in this Town (besides musique, dancing, and some other Recreations we used at home, during the rain, to divert the tediousness of the time) Hunting was our best and most usual entertainment, when the Snow was frozen upon the ground. Our Musique was most commonly at Dinner, at which time there was nothing to be heard but Trumpets and Viols, whose delightful and agreeable Harmony, did sometimes so charm the *Russes*, that it drew great Company of them to hear it. And indeed the Musique was very good, being managed by one of the best experienced Musicians of *England*, who from time to time composed new aires. Our dancing also, which the Ambassador used sometimes upon occasion of this Musique, was no less admired by

them, who in their Dances knew nothing but brutish and uncomely Postures But when the River was stopt up to the boats, and the Snow was frozen upon the ground, which was not till the latter end of *November*, Hare-hunting was our principal sport, of which Creatures we found such plenty, that we could very well entertain ourselves amongst them from morning till night, and then we went a hunting in our Sledges But they that knew how to march upon their Scates, did also divert themselves with sliding upon the River Moreover the Baths were grown very familiar amongst us, for besides the pleasure, we found great refreshment by them We had also the Celebration of several Festivals, but principally of the fifth of *November*, which we kept in Memory of the happy Discovery of the Treason contrived against King *James* at *London* We began our Solemnity in the night by artificial fire-works, made by an *Englishman* with great skill and success, and the same was continued by a great Feast which the *English* Merchants were invited to, and by a pleasant farce of Mascarads after Supper, and concluded with dancing

And thus have you seen the manner of our living during our Residence at *Vologda* I shall now present you with some particular circumstances, before I proceed to the Description of our Voiage betwixt *Vologda* and *Mosco*

Although Tobacco be forbidden in this Country with great severity, yet there were some of the Ambassadors Servants who drove a private Trade with it in this Town, and that with so much advantage, that sometimes they sold the most ordinarie tobacco (which cost them in *London* not above nine pence or ten pence the pound) for fifteen shillings the pound to the *Moscovites*, who stole to them with great secrecy to buy it It is a Commodity they love so well in those parts, that if they want mony they will truck their shirts for tobacco which they take so brutishly that I was almost frightened to see such of them

as waited on the Ambassador smoaking it when they had opportunity Instead of Pipes they have an Engine made of a Cows horn, in the middle of which they pierce a hole and therein place the Vessel which holds their tobacco The Vessel is commonly made of wood, very wide and indifferently deep, which when they have filled with tobacco they put water into the horn to temper the smoak, then they lighten their pipe with a firebrand, and suck the smoak thorough the horn with such greediness, that they make not above two sucks of a pipe, and when they whiffe it out of their mouths, they raise such a cloud that it hides all their face, and immediatly after they fall drunk upon the ground Five or six of them one after another have I seen tumbling in this manner, and so drunk that they had scarce time to give their Companions their pipes, and for half a quarter of an hour they will ly in this pickle as insensible as if they had the falling sickness But as soon as they begin to revive, and the smoak of the tobacco hath had its operation, they leap up in an instant one after another more brisk and lively than they were before, pronouncing it a most admirable invention for purging the head Red cloth, and Grey especially are of that esteem in this Town, that some of us could hardly forbear selling our cloaths off our backs, to accomodate them

During our stay here, there happened a Quarrel also betwixt two considerable servants in his Excellencies train, at an entertainment made him by the Pristaf at a Country house of his, two or three miles from *Vologda* For his Excellence setting out late to return back to the Town, one of them fell in as close as he could to the Ambassadors person, who was then attended with sixteen sledges, the other who was but then preparing to depart being come up to him, fell foul upon the former with design to quarrel with him, and nothing could serve his turn but he must stop his sledg, that he himself might go before him according to his place The other not at all pleased

with so strange a dealing, refused him and gave him withall ill language Upon this they both betook themselves to their swords and leaping on shore they fell presently to fight But the Ambassador having the alarm came presently in, and seeing how deficient they had bin in their respect to his person, he used them both severely

In the 18 of *December* we saw that strange representation, that is annually made by the *Moscovites* of the fiery furnace in which *Shadrech*, *Mesec*, and *Abednego* were cast by the King of *Bablon* The Persons that act in it are disguised, their beards rubbed over with honey, their hats of wood with which they run up and down the streets, and with wild fire in their hand burn the hair or beard of any body they meet, with great insolence During this Extravagance the *Moscovites* look upon them as so many Pagans and profane persons, but on the feast of Kings they baptize them again, because that day they believe was the first calling of the Gentils, and for that reason they return them into the bosome of the Church

Our devotions at Christmas being over, my Lord Ambassador made all necessary preparations for our Voyage from *Vologda* to *Mosco* In order to which he sent to *Nestrof* to desire that he might have good sledges chiefly for his Gentlemen, and that the same might attend them quite through his journey to spare the trouble of changing them by the way But this demand was presently rejected by *Nestrof*, who had been well pleased if all his Excellencies Retinue would have marched on foot His answer was, he could not furnish him with any, but the Ordinary sledges which are commonly very thin and split in their sides Upon this answer my Lord Ambassador dispatched his Secretary to him, who told him freely it was most undecent to have persons of quality worse accommodated for their confidence in the Care of the *Tzar* so great a Monarch, than if they had been at their own charges He replied they might do as they pleased, no body hindered them

from taking their own course And thereupon he declared that his Excellence had no reason, to complain, that his *Tzarskoy* Majesty had done him extraordinary honor in sending a person of his quality so far to conduct him to *Mosco* To which the Secretary replied, that my Lord Ambassador acknowledged his quality, but that he never thought it so great, that he and his associate ought to preferr themselves before him as they had done at their first visit But after all this expostulation his Excellence was constrained to provide himself of sledges at his own charges In the mean time to secure themselves from the wind and the snow, every one took care to make himself a kind of a tilt of cloth stretched upon two or three hoops, as the people of quality of those parts are used to do And the weather being exceeding cold, the greatest part lined their sledges with a course kind of felt that is sold on purpose for that use, as they did likewise their Coverlets with good furs to wrap themselves up in The rest provided as well as they could to cover themselves, so that our *Samojedes* Vests were not with out employment, nor were our Buck and Sheeps skin unusefull in this Voiage, every one endeavouring above all things to be furnished with furs against the cold

CHAPTER VIII

OF HIS EXCELLENCIES JOURNEY FROM VOLOGDA TO MOSCO

My Lord Ambassador foreseeing what the inconvenience would be if he marched with his whole train along with him, especially from *Vologda* to *Yeroslaf*, upon which road there was nothing but Villages, thought good to send before his Horses and all things belonging to his Stables with sixty sledges, in which there was also a good part of his baggage, and some nine or ten Servants who had

all their quarters assigned that they might have the better care of the Goods The 7 of *January* 1664 they set forward, and on the 15 of the same moneth his Excellence with a Train of about an hundred and forty Sledges On the 19 he arrived at *Yeroslaf*, having crossed the *Volga* at the Towns-end, which was Frozen over, and covered with Snow The 22 we parted from *Yeroslaf* all together, and passing by *Rostof*, we came the 24 to *Peroslaf* The next day his Excellence departed from *Peroslaf* and arrived on the 27 at *Troitza*, where we stayed five days At length we came to the *Yawes* on the third of *February*, which is a little Village some five Versts from *Mosco*, and there it was my Lord Ambassador prepared himself for his Entry, which began the fifth, and was not finished till the sixth at Night

The Weather was so sharp, and the Frost so violent, when Mr *Godbolt* (the Master of the Horse) departed with my Lord's Coach and Horses from *Vologda*, that notwithstanding our provision of Furs, we thought we should never have been able to overcome it But this extremity continued not above five or six days, the Heavens had reserved more mild and propitious weather for his Excellencies departure, so that it thawed till the very day we arrived at *Yeroslaf*, but it began then to reassume its former fierceness, as by very sensible Convictions we found afterwards We marched as well night as day, every one in his sledge at his full length And, because the upper parts of us were more exposed to the injuries of the Aire, we took a particular care of covering our selves, and to stop all the chinks the cold might possibly come in at We had every one of us (besides our Furs) his bottle of strong water, which we drunk off now and then as an excellent preservative of Heat The Kitchen went still before with the *Russ* Harbingers, which the *Pristafs* sent away to take up our Lodgings in good time, and to get

such meat dressed as they had along with them, and having dispatched these away, they advanced to the next place some three or four hours before the Ambassador. The *Pristafs* Equipage made the whole journey on horse-back, true it is they were well mounted and warmly clad, yet in my judgment their manner of travailing was very much disagreeable with the Season. The Waggoners or Drivers condition was lamentable too, who as the other had no other covering than the Sky, but they had this advantage that they could warm themselves as they ran by their Sledges sides, besides a certain dexterity they had got in begging strong Waters, which they would do so frequently, it was a hard matter to prevent them by offering it. Moreover we had three Relays or Stages by the way, viz at *Yeroslaf*, at *Peroslaf*, and at *Troitza*, where some of us changed both their Horses and Sledges, others whom his Excellence had furnished with Sledges from *Vologda*, provided themselves with fresh Horses only, so that each of us had four several Waggoners or Drivers by the way.

The greatest Inconvenience I found in our whole Voiage was in our Lodging, for besides that the accommodation of Inns is not known in that Country, there are very few Towns upon the Road that are capable of receiving an Ambassador. So that his Excellence had never good Quarters, but at *Yeroslaf*, at a *Moscovites* house which was newly built, and there we stayed near four compleat days to refresh our selves, most of us lying in sheets, which we had scarce done any where but there in our whole Voiage. Our usual lodgings were Cabbins, or little Cottages of Wood, one story high, black all over with smoak, so that to dissipate the stinks which are occasioned by the same, and the sweltring heat of their skins, which would be otherwise intollerable, we were forced to keep the Windows continually open. But the greatest trouble we had in these lodgings, or *Wisbries* (as they call them) was when they heated their Stoves, for having no Chimneys

they make their fires within side of the Chambers, and the smoak having no passage but at the Windows into the Streets, it is scarce possible to subsist one moment in that condition

And hence it was also we were so ill accommodated with Diet for, besides that we almost alwaies eat in a Scramble, mutton, beef, or hens, which were rosted in their furnaces, was commonly our fare They having no other invention for the dressing their meat, & we doing it ordinarily in hast, it fell out often our meat was but half dressed, insomuch that some rather chose to eat their meat that had been frozen in the way, provided it had been better dressed This it was that in the beginning of this Relation gave me occasion to say, that amongst the Utensils of the Kitchin that the Ambassador brought from *England*, a Chimney would not have been superfluous in several places However as we were well lodged at *Yeroslaf*, so our entertainment was very splendid, the Governour of the Town shewing so much generosity, that he would spare no cost in regaling the Ambassador and his Train There was an *English* Merchant there, that treated his Excellence very nobly, *Nestrof* entertained him twice also in his Voiage, and amongst the rest at *Peroslaf*, where we had the diversion of Musique, though in a *Wisby* all blackned with smoak

Furthermore, in the Condition wherein we travailed, it was no easie matter for us to divert our selves being every one in his sledge by himself as in another world, marching as well night as day amidst the snow, and in the Violence of the winter, which to us seemed very bitter, though to the *Moscovites* it appeared very Favourable, Our Employment for the most part was sleeping, the solitude, the warmth of our furs, and the agreeable motion of our sledges inviting us thereunto, so that the greatest part of us did nothing almost but sleep all the Voiage And for this reason when we came near any Town or Village, the Ambassador gave

order that the Trumpets should sound, to give advertisement to his train

Moscovie being not very populous, and the Towns but of wood, my intention is not to delay my self in describing those that presented themselves in this Voyage For, besides that the *Moscovites* are very scrupulous in permitting strangers to see their forts, there are very few of their Towns worthy an exact description The handsomest we saw in this Journey is *Yeroslaf*, no very great Town but remarquable for that the *Volga* runs by it, and renders it a place of good Trade and populous At *Peroslaf* there is a very narrow River, but above 100 fathoms deep, and by the side of the Town a little Lake which was frozen as well as the River, at that time *Troitza* is a Town built upon the bending of a hill in which there is a Covent that makes it very remarquable It is built on a plain below the Town, all of stone, fortified with a faire Wall, and so rich that it maintains ordinarily 300 Monks Here it was his Excellence was retarded five days in respect of the preparation that was making at *Mosco* for his Entry, and by reason that betwixt this place and *Mosco*, there was no other Town so proper for his stay, though in this also he was sufficiently incommoded, Yet in all the time he could not have liberty to see the Monastery

On the third of *February* as soon as we were arrived at the *Yaws*, his Excellence got his Coach ready, and put himself immediately into a condition of making his solemne Entry into *Mosco* In the mean time the tediousness of our Journey past, the ill lodging we met with in so little a Village, and the happy repose we promised our selves in *Mosco*, made us impatiently to expect the hour of our departure At length the fifth of that month was appointed for the Ambassadors reception, as *Nestrof* had acquainted his Excellence the day before, advising him to have all things ready by nine a clock the next Morning, which according to the *Moscovite* accompt was the third hour

of the day Accordingly the Liveries were immediately given out to those that were to wear them, and the Gentlemen put themselves with all speed into a very good Equipage, so that all were ready at the hour appointed Our Liveries were so rich, and so well trim'd, that the Pages Liveries amongst others cost near thirty pound sterling a piece, being almost covered quite over with silver lace Each of them had a good plume of feathers in his hat, and in short there was nothing in all this Equipage unworthy the greatness of the Master This was in part the condition in which his Excellence was to make his Entry on the 5 of *February*, for which all things were in readiness by nine of the clock in the morning But the hour being come we had no Orders for our departure, in so much that there we lay languishing in a tedious expectation till four a clock in the evening His Excellence having dispatched his Cooks to *Mosco* in the morning to prepare his dinner in the house that was assigned him there, we were constrained to remain all that day without provisions, because we expected every moment to be gone In the mean time no body knew what to make of this disorder, *Nestrof* himself was amazed and could not imagine the reason, unless it was that the *Tzar* was a-sleep, and no body durst wake him At length about half an hour before night, the Messengers arrived with orders for our departure when we were in despair of making our Entry The Ambassador was much surprised at it, and could not imagine what their designe should be to receive him in the night, in so much, that he represented to *Nestrof* that it was not the Custome to receive Ambassadors in that Manner However orders being come, and we tyred with an extream impatience all day of removing from those *Wisbries*, he prepared to depart, and expose all his pomp and splendor to the darkness of the night

CHAPTER IX

OF THE SOLEMNE ENTRY OF THE AMBASSADOR INTO MOSCO

THE Glory of Princes is in some proportion like the glory of the Sun, and suffers its Eclipses, the disorders and irregularities of their Officers many times intercepting the rays of their glory Of this we have an instance in the condition we were in all that day, contrary to the *Tzars* designe, who stayd near four houres with the Empress or great Dutchesse at one of the gates of the Town, to see the splendor of this Embassy which was to be more particularly illustrious at this Entry But those who were the contrivers of this so great miscarriage, were the cause also of that which happened after our setting forth, and which his Excellence resented with great indignation, which was the deferring of our Entry till the next day, after we had advanced a good part of our way, and arrived within sight of the Town For it being very late, and the night overtaking us whenas of five *Versts* we had past but two, his *Tzarskoy* Majesty thought good his Excellence should retire, and send orders to *Nestrof* to conduct him into a little Village on the Left hand, to the end the Ambassador might from thence make his Entry the next morning in good time We had already in some manner presaged this disorder when we took notice how we were lead thorough by-ways, and that they had by designe drawn us out of the high way For which cause the Ambassador reflecting upon the ill treatment he had received that day and imagining this delay would become every where a matter of laughter and contempt, he was so farr transported, that he resolved and protested not to make his Entry till he had lawfull reparation thereupon And to testify the resentment he had of this affront, he commanded his Trumpets should be silent Thus this day, which should have been a day of Pomp and Magnificence

proved a day of fasting of trouble and discontent , this day in which his Excellence ought to have received the extraordinarie Markes of the greatest Amity that ever was betwixt two Crownes, was a day in which ne received but the tokens of indignity and contempt True it is, the Ambassador was no sooner arrived at the *Village*, we were retired to by order from the great *Duke*, but a *Drack* (whose name was *Loukrian Golozof*) arrived from him to excuse this disorder, and accordingly he alledged that the Messengers that were sent with the orders for our departure had imprudently lost their way, and that his Majesty judging it inconvenient his Excellence should make his Entry so late, he thought good to defer him till the next morning, that he might give him a Reception suitable to his Character But the Ambassador being assured that this wandring of the Messengers was but a pretence (for he was otherwise informed, that all this happened because they were not ready to receive him) he was so farr from being satisfied with his apology, that he was disgusted at the very person of the *Drack*, and told him that without any reflexion upon him, it had been more becomming to have sent a person of greater quality than he was of, to excuse such proceedings In the mean time our Cooks were sent back, who brought us some provision along with them, to recover those Spirits we had lost that day for want of victuals The next day in the morning his Excellency apprehending *Golozof* might have either disguised or concealed his answer, he commanded his Secretarie to draw up a letter in writing to the *Tzar*, in which he should inform him of the principal circumstances of this disorder, and intimate his resolution not to stirr from thence, till some correction were given to the Authors and Instruments of it

This Letter was scarce gone, when *Demente Bashmacof Drack* of the great Dukes Cabinet, arrived at the Ambassadors *Wisby* from the *Tzar*, he acquitted himself of

his Message to his Excellence so well, that having promised him all manner of satisfaction, he prevailed with him upon those termes to make his Entry immediately And as *Bashmacof* was returning very well pleased, the Interpreter, who departed with the Letter at the same time *Bashmacof* came to his Excellence, arrived with this answer, that *Almaze* the *Diacke* of the Embassy office (into whose hands he had given the Letter) told him that *Bashmacof* was gone towards the Ambassador to give him satisfaction in the behalf of his *Tzarskoy* Majesty

This being past, we departed immediately to make our Entry, in which we received indeed very evident tokens of the Grandeur of that Prince, there being all the splendor and glory that precious stones, rich furs, cloth of gold and silver, velvets and other rich stuffs, goodly horses, and a noble Equipage could make besides the noise of an incredible number of Trumpets, Kettle-drums and other Instruments of military Musique, so that it was reported every where in the court, that the City of *Mosco* never saw the Entry of any Ambassador so glorious as this, which was made, on saturday the sixth of *February* in a very faire day, with the same Order and Circumstances that follow

The Ambassadors Trumpeters, sounding their silver Trumpets as they went, marcht on horsback in the Van They were followed by the Gentlemen one after another, every one in his sledge, the inferior formost, so that he whose place and quality was immediately before the other followed him immediately in the procession, to the end that thereby he might have the advantage of being so much nearer the person of the Ambassador Each of them had his sledge adorned with Bearskins so disposed, that half of them hung down behind The *Pristafs* domestiques followed two and two, all very well clad, and they made five ranks on horsback After them came the *Pristafs*, each of them in his sledge And my Lord

Ambassador followed *Nestrof* in his sledge drawn by two white horses, which is the most esteemed colour for horses in *Moscoue*. The Tilt or covering of his sledge was of scarlet, whose edges hanging down very low were guarded round about with crowns made of little peices of sky coloured velvet edged with silver lace, and the back of his sledge was drest up with the skin of a white Bear. On the right side of his sledge upon a plank layd cross sate his chief interpreter with his head uncovered, behind there was another board layd at the bottom of the sledge on which there stood two Pages, the twelve footmen in the mean time marching six of a side with Partisons trim'd according to their Liveries, one behind another, and all bare. Behind his Excellence followed my Lord *Vicomte Morpeth* the Ambassadors only Son then of about seventeen years of age, who bare his Father company in all his Embassies. He sate in a very faire glass coach drawn by six black horses, with rich housses of Scarlet very well laced and fringed with silver, which upon black shew very handsom, and behind his Coach he had two Pages also. After my Lord *Morpeth* came my Lady Ambassadors in her *Caftnaz*, covered on the out side all over with Crimson velvet, with very broad laces of gold and silver, and lined within with blew damaske according to the Liveries which were red, lined with blew. On each side there were great windows which served as doors to go in at, besides which, there were little windows also, which her Ladship might looke thorow without being seen her selfe. she had one of her Gentle-women in the *Caftnaz* with her, two Pages standing upon a plank behinde, and three footmen running by. After my Ladies *Caftnaz* came my Lord of *Morpeths* sledg, but without any body in it after which there followed two *Caftnazes* more and so in order all the rest of the train and baggage, which made up about two hundred sledges.

A while after we had left this Village, (which was about

two a clock) we entred into a very faire champaigne , in which the *Moscovian* horse were drawne up, and had been two days there putting into Order Amongst the rest they had a great Number of Archers with their Quivers full of arrows , and for their Musique there were so many Trumpets, Kettle-drums, Howboys, and other such instruments of war, which they had disperst in parties thorow all their Troops, that for two miles we were in no want of Musique But they having battered our ears with one continued aire above two hours together all the way as we marcht, the noise of those Instruments which at first had delighted us with their melody, became now obstreperous and troublesome In the mean time there were a great number of *Boyars*, of *Stolmicks*, and other persons of the Court, which came to meet the Ambassador, richly clad in Vests or Tuniques, of cloth of gold and silver, or velvets lined with Sables, with great caps on their heads of black Fox, made in the fashion of a Muff, which they use commonly in their Ceremonies They were most of them very well mounted upon good horses, with rich trappings and bridles of silver, made like chains, with the linkes very broad and thin, so that whilst their horses were in motion, they made a noise altogether Majestique There were severall also who had their housses covered with pretious stones, whose lustre seemed to adde a richer light to the light of the day , and behinde them they had their servants carrying covers for their sadles of Leopard skins, cloth of gold, velvet, and scarlet All the Gentlemen of the *Tzars* chamber were there ready to accompany the Ambassador to his very house

At length, the Master of the great *Dukes* horse came to present to the Ambassador from the *Tzar* a sledg, & another for my Lord *Morpeth*, with several white horses for the Gentlemen A while after, came *Pronchissof*, one of the *Tzars* Counsel, and *Gregory Cosmovitz* along with him, who were both deputed to serve his Excellence as *Pristafs*,

or Masters of the Ceremonies during his residence in *Mosco*. And in this occasion it was we had another ridiculous example of the pride and rusticity of the *Moscovites*, who are so quick and precise in anticipating the Prerogative of Ambassadors. *Pronchissof* being arrived within some small distance of the Ambassadors sledge, gave him to understand that he was sent to receive him from the grand *Duke* his Lord, and that he expected the Ambassador should first come out of his sledge. But his Excellence signified to him by his Interpreter, that his expectations were very ill grounded, that he represented the person of the King his Master, and that in that case all such Kind of respect was due to himself. *Pronchissof* however continued unmoveable in his sledge as a Master of Ceremonies, and sent back to the Ambassador that he also was sent from the *Tzar* his Master to represent his person so that to have seen him, one would have thought he had taken upon him the forme of a statue, to represent the Majesty of his Prince. This answer, how absurd soever it was, caused several smart replies both on one side and the other till at last the Ambassador to prevent any further delay in his Entrance, condescended to this, That they should both of them come out of their sledges together. But in this *Pronchissof* tooke occasion to deceive his Excellence, and falsify his word, hanging in the aire betwixt the armes of his servants, and but touching the earth with his tiptoes, whilst the Ambassador came out freely. At their meeting, they saluted one another, and *Pronchissof* first delivered his complement, which consisted in declaring his Employment, and acquainting his Excellence, that the *Tzar* had sent him, and his associate *Gregory Cosmouitz* (who was there present also) to take care that all things necessary should be provided during his continuance at *Mosco*. But the greatest part of his complement was the recitation of his Masters Titles, which he enumerated from the first to the last, in a most troublesome

and ridiculous maner, as will appeare hereafter His complement being made, and the Ambassador having answered him with a very good grace, they retired both of them into their sledges, *Pronchussof* returning in the same posture he came, his servants holding him up by his armes, as if they were afraid he should sinke under the burthen of the emploiment, which his Master had given him At this time *Nestrof* and *Davidof* (giving place to *Pronchussof* and *Gregory Cosmovitz* the new *Pristsafs*) took their leaves of the Ambassador After which Ceremonies, we disposed our selves to enter into the Town, the Ambassador having *Pronchussof* on his right hand, and *Cosmovitz* on his left, my Lord *Morpeth* had two Lords of the Court to accompany him, so that in every ranke there were three sledges a breast The Gentlemen were all on horseback betwixt *Sinboyars*, or Gentlemen of the Court The Chaplaine, Physitian, and Musique-Master, with several English Merchants, and two Vallets de Chambre were joyned with them, so that they made up about five and twenty ranks on horse-back, marching three a breast

All these Ceremonies, and the slowness of our march took up so much time, that the night overtook us before we could enter the Town, our frequent stoppings and pawses having consum'd above three houres in going of about two miles Therefore, because the Sun had withdrawn himself before we were ready to appear in the Town, the Citizens had made great fires in their streets, and provided great numbers of torches to render every thing visible about his Excellence, so that the night as well as the day did seem to participate in the Glory of this Entry And the pretious stones, darting about the rays of their refulgency, made the clearness of the night in some respect more majestique than the brightness of the day, not to mention the multitudes of people, wherewith the streets were filled, and the houses covered in all places where

we passed, every one clambring up here and there to behold this Magnificence

The *Tzar*, the great Dutchess, and the young Princes also would needs be Spectators now, as they had disposed themselves to be the day before But to the end they might see all without being perceived themselves, they made choice of a place near the Gate of the Brick Wall, whither they had ordered a great number of Wax-tapers to be sent And here the *Moscovian* Trumpets all stopt, to sound at the time as the Ambassador past the Gate, and was entred into the Town, which was exactly performed but with so confused a noise, it might very well be compared to that which the Geese made in the *Capitol*, whilst the *Gauls* were climbing over the Walls After this terrible alarm, which we were altogether surprised with, under pretence of some little accident, they made a stop for about half a quarter of an hour, to the end the *Tzar* might at his leisure observe the whole Pomp, and indeed the great number of Wax-Tapers which they had disposed of each side of the Gate, discovered the design clear enough At length, when his Majestie was satisfied with viewing the Magnificence of his Excellences Train, he was conducted to the House which they had prepared for him, the *Moscovian* horse trouping thorough the Town in a huddle, without observing any order at all in their march From the Gate of the Town, we past thorow the *Tzars* Guards, which were drawn up on both sides of the streets, from thence to the House where we lay

CHAPTER X

OF THE AMBASSADORS RESIDENCE AT MOSCO

THERE are three things which principally recommend themselves to our Consideration in this place Our manner of Living whilst we were here, The Ambassadors Negotia-

tion, And some Circumstances that happened during our Residence at *Mosco* Of which City it is necessary to give a precedent Description for the better comprehension of what followeth

The City of *Mosco* hath the same inconvenience with the other Towns in *Moscovie*, which is, that it is built like them with Wood, some principal Houses excepted Instead of being paved, they have only great pieces of Firr laid close together, and cross the Streets When we were there, its figure was almost Circular, and at least four leagues in Circumference, but being much subject to Fire, its form and extent doth not continue long in the same condition True it is, their Streets are broad enough, and from place to place there are certain Intervals left to break off and cease the fury of the Fire, but the materials of their Houses being so combustible, they have much ado to prevent its progress All the remedy they have, is to pull down the Houses that are next, to the end that by taking away the matter, that should nourish it, they may give the flame more room to extinguish But this not alwaies succeeding, especially if the wind be high, it happens sometimes, that they see a great part of the Town in ashes in a very short space

This Town hath three Walls, one of Brick, another of Stone, a third of Wood, separating the four quarters of the Town, which are called *Catangorod*, *Tzargorod*, *Scoradom*, and *Strelitza Sloboda* The Brick-wall divides *Catangorod* from the rest of the Town, that of Stone belongs to *Tzargorod*, and the Wooden one serves as Ramparts and Bastions to *Strelitza Sloboda*, which is properly the quarter of the *Strelitz*, or Musqueteers of the *Tzars* Guards

Amongst the Rivers that pass by this City, *Mosca* is a fair one, which gives it its Name, it rises in the Province of *Twere*, and loseth it self in the *Volga*, where the same joines with the River *Occa*, not far from *Columna* Besides these, there are the *Neglina* and the *Yagusa*, two little Rivers which run by the City, and fall into the River *Mosca*.

But that which is the greatest Ornament to this City, besides the Rivers I have named, is the great number of Churches and Chappels which they have there, together with the *Tzars* Castle, which is called *Cremelena*. Their Churches are generally of stone, arched, & of a round form. They are a great Ornament to the Town, by reason of their steeples, which are covered over with Lattin, whose glittering seemes to redouble the brightness of the Sun. As to the number of Churches & Chappels in *Mosco*, they are reckoned about two thousand.

The *Tzars* Castle is of that greatness, that it is about two miles in Circumference. There is in it a very fair Pallace of Stone, built after the *Italian* fashion, and another of Wood, which the *Tzar* chuses to reside in, as the more healthful of the two. The Patriarch also, and several Boyars have their Houses of Stone within this Castle, besides two Covents, one of Moncks, and the other of Nuns. There are also a great number of Churches and Chappels of Stone, and amongst the rest, one dedicated to St *Michael*, in which the Tombs of the *Tzars* are placed. All the Steeples of these Churches are covered with Copper, which the heat of the Sun hath burnished into a great resemblance of Gold, but upon one of these Steeples there stands a Cross which is of massie Gold. We saw there a Bell (which was made some years since by a *Moscovite*) of that prodigious bigness, that fifty men might very well stand within it. It is about nine fathoms in circumference, which by consequence is three in diameter. When we came first to *Mosco*, it was upon the ground, in a base Court where it was cast, and during the four moneths and a half we remained there, all they could do, was to raise it though but a little from the ground, with intention to build a Steeple for it in the same place. The Fortifications of the Castle are also very considerable. For, besides that it is very well planted with Canon, there is a large Ditch and three very strong Walls about it. Some of our

Company that had the curiosity to survey this Ditch, as they past over the bridg, were desired by the *Moscovites* to march on, and not trouble themselves with surveying their Works

There are moreover in *Mosco* a great number of *Greeks*, of *Persians*, and especially of *Tartars*, but they admit no *Jews* The *Greeks* of all Strangers are most wellcome to them, as being in many things conformable with them, but particularly in matters of Religion The *Protestants* and *Lutherans* are well received also, and have all of them liberty to hold publique Assemblies, for the Exercise of their Religion, which is not permitted to the *Roman Catholics*, for whom they have a particular aversion But to the end that forreign Christians may live together with more liberty, there is a *Sloboda*, or great Suburb without the Town, where most of them live, according to their own way And in this place it is the *Germans*, *English*, *Hollanders*, and *Polomans* do most commonly reside

The House we were lodged in in this Town, was a large building of Stone, no great distance from the Castle, and one of the most commodious to be found The Chambers were all arched, every window had its shutters of iron, and every passage-door was also of iron which gave one occasion to say, we were certainly in the iron Age, though otherwise it be a mettle rare enough in that Country Our Chambers were most of them hanged with Serge or red Cloth, and instead of chairs, we had benches covered over with the same stuff, without any Beds or other necessary accommodations, besides tables and furnaces for the Winter Amongst the rest of the Rooms, there were two great Hals, one of them (in which the Canopie of State was set up) we made use of as our Chappel, on those days wherein we had Sermons, of the other for a Quarter for seven or eight of our Gentlemen, who were constrained at their arrival, to make their several lodgings distinct from one another For when he who had the charge of preparing the House was advertised that the Ambassador's Gentle-

men could not lye crowded together as in a Hospital, and that this manner of living would be very strange and incommodious to them, he answered jestingly, that it was best for them to lye together, lest the Rats should run away with them being single Which Answer put some of us on a sudden upon a desire to know, if the Rats were so big at *Mosco*, for my part I imagined for the doing of such an exploit, every Rat ought to be as big as two *Boyers* However, we saw we had great reason to be impatient at *Vologda*, for our arrival here, where we had all that could be expected in this Country Our Publique devotion which had been suspended in our Travails was regulated here as at *Vologda*, and at Easter we had a Communion We had moreover the diversion of seeing the Town, and to visit our Friends in the *Sloboda*, where his Excellence himself was sometime treated by the Merchants But this freedom was so regulated and restrained, that for the four first days we were shut up close in our House, and not permitted to stir abroad before the Audience They would suffer no Strangers to come near us, nor could the Ambassador prevail, that the *English* Merchants Wives might have access to his Lady It is true, after the Ambassador's Audience we had liberty to go abroad, but then for two or three moneths we were obliged to take some of the *Tzar's* Guards along with us, which followed us armed with their half-pikes, for which end there were commonly fifty of them attending us, keeping their guards at the Gate, and examining almost every one that came in The Ambassador himself was not permitted to stir unless he had a *Pristaf* with him, and was attended with a Company of *Strehts* Whereby it happened, that the Ambassador one day after a long expectation of the *Pristaf* (who seemed to neglect him) being upon the point of going abroad in his Coach without him, the footmen running before as if they would have passed out of the Gate, the *Strehts* stood immediately to their armes, to hinder them, which

they did, till the *Pristaf* was pleased to come and accompany the Ambassador. None of the *Boyars* could have the sight of his Excellence in his House, unless he was sent by the *Tzar*, it being almost a Capital offence for any person of quality whatsoever, to have any kind of Conference with an Ambassador without his leave. Hunting, which was our great divertisement at *Vologda*, was the least of our recreations here, but as soon as the snow was melted, and the spring arrived, we fell immediately to making of Horse-matches. There was a challenge also betwixt twelve of our Company to play at Foot-ball. At other times we ran at the Ring, and on that day our repast was taken in the Wood, where that exercise was performed. Our Musique-master composed a handsome Comedie in Prose, which was acted in our House. As for their Baths, they were as rare at *Mosco* as hunting, for we used one as often there as the other. But the most part of our Family would go now and then to their publique Stoves. About one mile from *Mosco* we observed in a little Lake an Iland floating, as the Antients believed of *Delos*, but it was very small. It is kept above water by the roots of Trees, with which it is enterlaced, there were some of us took a boat and went upon it, turning it as a piece of timber which way they pleased.

This being, as near as I could relate, the manner of our living at *Mosco*, it follows now that we display the Ambassadors negotiation, and at the same time the Ceremonies which are practised in that Court. In pursuance of which design, I shall speak in the first place of the Audience which the *Tzar* gave the Ambassador on the 11 of *February*, which was five days after our Entry

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QUESTIONS ON CHAPTERS V—X

A

- 1 Describe the journey from Archangel to Vologda
- 2 How was the time spent at Vologda ?
- 3 Describe the journey from Vologda to Moscow

B

- 1 What was (a) the history, (b) the importance of the English connection with Archangel ?
- 2 (a) Draw a picture of a Samoyede (b) Write a letter describing the Samoyedes
- 3 How many of the places mentioned between Archangel and Vologda can you find on the map ?
- 4 What was the joke about the Governor of Arsnoa ? What other evidence of the cheerfulness of the English party can you find ?
- 5 What were the chief difficulties encountered between Archangel and Vologda ?
- 6 Who was Nestrof ? What did he do ?
- 7 How did the Russians celebrate December 18 ?
- 8 What precautions were taken against the cold on leaving Vologda ?
- 9 Describe the ambassadorial procession as it entered Moscow
- 10 How was it received by the Russians ?
- 11 Describe Moscow
- 12 How were the English housed in Moscow, and how did they spend their leisure ?
- 13 How did the Earl of Carlisle deal with the difficulties which he encountered ?
- 14 Had Guy Miege an eye for scenery ? or for character ?
- 15 Set yourself three other questions and answer them
- *16 Allowing for differences in means of communication, how does this account compare with that which a modern journalist would give ?

C

- 1 Compare the account of the effect of tobacco on the Russians at Vologda with its effect on Coleridge
- 2 Compare the difficulties of etiquette in Chapter X with those in Chapter III
- 3 Contrast the experiences of the Countess of Carlisle on this embassy with those of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu when she accompanied her husband on his embassy to Constantinople ?
- *4 Compare the styles of Miege and Defoe ?

NOTES

PAGE

- 6 *Acessæus*—a sailor who always put off his voyage till the next moon (Erasmus Adagia, I v 85)
- 6 *Scuttle*—a platform at the head of a lower mast, a "top"
- 8 *Bolt-sprit*—an obsolete form of "bowsprit," a large spar or boom running out from the stem of a vessel, to which the fore-mast stays are fastened
- 8 *Burlington*—the old form of Bridlington on the coast of Yorkshire
- 10 *Orlogones*—Cape Orlov, at the entrance to the White Sea
- 14 *Family*—household, including the attendants
- 17 *Boristhenes*—or Borysthenes, the ancient name of the Dnieper
- 17 *Olearius*—the Latinized name of Adam Oelschlager (1600–1671), a German traveller and writer who wrote a famous account of his journey to Russia and Persia
- 17 *Nice*—Nise or Nijni Novgorod The Volga there unites with the Oka, and its greatest breadth immediately below the confluence is 1750 yards
- 20 *Quintal*—one hundred pounds
- 24 *Humour*—character
- 25 *Coyfe*—or coif, a kind of close cap
- 27 *Polonian*—Polish
- 28 *Agessilaus*—a famous king of Sparta who reigned from 397 to 360 B C
- 29 *Camma*—Kama, the god of love in Hindu mythology
- 76 *This Letter*—the letter, like all the rest of the official communications, was in Latin, which it was Andrew Marvell's duty to compose
- 78 *Housses*—horse-mantles
- 80 *Salute*—ceremonial kiss
- 84 *Latten*—latten, a metal
- 87 *Delos*—in the Ægean, anciently supposed to have floating island on which Apollo was born

LIST OF BOOKS SUGGESTED

The figures refer to those placed *after* questions headed " C ' "

Mackenzie Wallace Russia

¹ Hakluyt The Principal Navigations, Voyages, and Discoveries of the English Nation

² Defoe Robinson Crusoe

³ Marvell Poems and Letters

⁴ Burrell Andrew Marvell (*English Men of Letters*)

⁵ Addison Selected Essays (*The Socrates Booklets*)

⁶ Mark Pattison Milton (*English Men of Letters*)

⁷ Coleridge Biographia Literaria (Chapter X)

⁸ Eighteenth Century Letters (*The Socrates Booklets*)

This list is not intended to be exhaustive